



QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT 2 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 on 12 May 2021 in Malampa, Penama, Tanna and Shefa provinces



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PART 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

"Respond, Pivot, Adapt and Innovate" – Flexible, Cross Sectoral Strategies

The Vanuatu Electoral Environment Project (VEEP) remain focussed on strengthening electoral authorities, electoral systems, civil registration authorities and democratic practices to conform to international standards and strengthening political stability. However, in these times of COVID19, agencies are being tasked to not merely deliver designed plans and outcomes but also to be more *resilient, responsive*, able to *pivot* and *innovate* to meet rapidly changing operational conditions. Unforeseen COVID19 vaccine support has included development of a full working vaccine registration application to demonstrate the feasibility of linking the Vaccine Programs with the CRVS data citizen data, supporting the CRVS department in setting-up registration stations at the Convention Center for registration/printing/lamination of National ID Cards, and Birth Certificates, including voter registration, and development of a self-service scanning application at the Convention Center for ID verification. This 2nd quarterly progress report demonstrates the project's flexibility and continuous adaptation to meet changing priorities and possibilities while still meeting key deliverables, optimising emerging opportunities, and diversifying activities across other sector stakeholders not imagined in the original project design.

The nation-wide civil and voter registration process continues with data verification and validation and National Identity Documents being issued. The National ID Card may now be used not just for voting but also for opening a bank account, procuring a Driver's Licence, a plane ticket, a passport and education enrolments. The potentially profound implications – not merely for voting purposes - of this simple card have quickly been realised by other agencies operating in Vanuatu.

Data silos have been broken, with previously inaccessible information shared across central Ministries where data was "ring fenced." The Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF have been able to use the ID Cards and VEEP's trained enumerators equipped with tablet technology to plan and roll out Vanuatu's COVID19 vaccine strategy. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) has recognised the implications of the ID Card and is using CRVS/VEO data, enumerators, and tablet-based approach for its on-going Cyclone Harold response as well as for future disaster planning and preparedness. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is using the ID Cards to plan evacuation centres and movements of internally displaced and disadvantaged people in times of emergencies.

Other replication effects are being felt in the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Youth Development & Sport (MYD&S), IOM, NDMO, OGCI as well as predictably the VNSO, the CRVS department and of course the VEC/VEO – all sustainability outcomes for the VEEP initiative. Internationally, the innovative approaches detailed in the Q2 2021 Report are being observed with interest by other Pacific Island Countries (PICs).

These unexpected outcomes of the VEEP Project, detailed as followed in the Quarter 2, 2021 Progress Report clearly demonstrate the flexible VEEP approach to not only improve the electoral sector environment but to "pivot, respond, adapt and innovate" by seizing opportunities to develop strategies to "value add" to VEEP Project investment and outcomes.



PART 2: 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>1.1 <i>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. Public Service Commission (PSC) submission and NPP submission by VEO, pending submission by PEO;</i> <i>2. 30 Data Entry students completed their 6 months data processing of field work data verification and validation;</i> <i>3. Procurement of indelible ink: 400 bottles of indelible ink procured with tailored labels and lab testing reports;</i> <i>4. Procurement additional 50,000 pre-printed national ID cards;</i> <i>5. Procurement of security lamination rolls and consumables/upgrade of printers, in collaboration with UNCDF;</i> <i>6. The project assisted in preparing and deploying 250 Tablets for voter identification at Polling Stations in the May Provincial Elections;</i> <i>7. A 2-day Training of Trainers (ToT) held in Vila for 21 registration officials, provincial officers on polling and counting procedures and forms;</i> <i>8. Three training audio-video productions filmed and edited to support training materials for VEO officers & polling staff, in support of cascade training.</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><i>Provincial Level:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. <i>Opening of the provincial office in Penama, Ambae;</i> 10. <i>A 'provincial package' for each provincial office has been developed (consisting of desk, chair, laptop, printer, phone, scanner, zoom equipment (speaker and webcam) poster material, manuals, and in some cases a satellite disc where GoV network are not available. Preparations for central procurement is ongoing. Lists prepared in collaboration with VEO and CRVS offices;</i> 11. <i>Provincial package identified for CRVS to upgrade printers and support infrastructure and network connections;</i> 12. <i>Established List of consolidated villages, excel sheet and shapefile;</i> 13. <i>Updated the satellite imageries for all provinces with regards to village names and GIS coordinates, incl. demarcation and alignment of electoral boundaries/area councils etc. All Atlas maps nearly completed, added w. layer of health clinics, schools, walking distance to polling stations. UNITAR/UNOSAT payment completed.</i> 14. <i>"Polling & Counting Manual" booklet (500 copies in Bislama) translated and printed, used for training of provincial registration officers and distributed to all polling stations;</i> 	
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			<p>15. <i>Approximately 1,150 registration & polling staff were trained through cascade training programs over 2-week period;</i></p> <p>16. <i>Meetings with PMO/NDMO office.</i></p>	
	<p>1.2 <i>Number of new increased and trained permanent staff at HQs and provincial offices, including joint training activities with the CRVS Department</i></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>1. <i>Polling Manuals translated into Bislama and English;</i></p> <p>2. <i>Supported and developed Training Concept and Agenda. Polling training agenda and training material power point, simulation exercises. Central level training undertaken for all provincial offices and registration officers;</i></p> <p>3. <i>Support development of Training Materials, including audio material/video productions. 3x audio video productions to support visuals and to boost the understanding of the training manual;</i></p> <p>4. <i>Supported planning, logistics and accommodation for training of polling staff undertaken at the Melanesian Hotel, with accommodation at Kaiviti Hotel;</i></p> <p>5. <i>Completion Report produced with recommendations for EO to consider on ways forward;</i></p> <p>6. <i>VEO Business Plan template produced in compliance with new GoV Guidelines for planning & reporting. Also produced compliant Quarterly Report templates; Half Yearly Report template and Annual Report Template.</i></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><i>Pending to be completed:</i></p> <p><i>Submission of 2021 VEO Restructure Submission and VEO NPPs to be submitted by PEO, countersigned by MoIA DG.</i></p> <p><i>VEOs Business Plan to be redrafted in line with new PSC format 2021 in November 2021 (for 2022)</i></p> <p><i>MoIA needs a new Corporate Plan 2022- 2025 by November.</i></p> <p><i>VEO/VEC activities will then "cascade" compliantly</i></p>



	<p>1.3 Number of formalised EC internal regulations and VEO operational procedures drafted and endorsed.</p>	<p>State Law Office Gazette General election order no. 127 of 2021, Municipal Government Council election regulations order no. 128 of 2021, Provincial Government Council election regulations order no. 129 of 2021</p> <p>VEC Minutes on re-structure</p> <p>Printed Booklets</p>	<p><i>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:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. 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 have subsequently been drafted by State Law Office, resulting in 3 EC regulations and the code of conducts - approved by the Electoral Commission, signed and recorded in the official gazette;</i> <i>2. VEO Candidate Handbook was updated and translated into Bislama and printed, in support of the Candidate Nomination process;</i> <i>3. My Provincial Election Week-by-Week 2021 was developed and translated into Bislama, and printed in support of civil and voter education activities, endorsed and distributed through the established Voter Awareness Committee.</i> 	<p>EC internal regulations are essential for the consolidation of the electoral processes in Vanuatu, which will greatly improve its integrity and transparency, 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>
	<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</p>	<p>Digitization Manual Data Declaration of Confidentiality TORs scanning and document handling staff.</p>	<p><i>This activity is on stand-by.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. 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;</i> 	<p>Digital Governance and establishment of Archive/Institutional memory/Ownership and authority VEC/VEO paper files and material are appraised to determine whether it is to be archived or disposed of. Personal information that has been collected is securely captured, scanned, name filed,</p>



	<i>Management System (Saperion);</i>		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. 30 additional Data Entry officers/students identified, following field registration/verification work. recruited & trained for data processing in addition to previous cohort of 25. This creates a trained pool of enumerators and data entry officers for use by VEEP and other agencies. 	archived. It is archived according to best practices of records management.
	1.5 No of electoral administrative processes where gender is mainstreamed, and gender disaggregated	<i>Amendments to:</i> CAP 146 CAP 230 CAP 126 CAP 61	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All electoral laws have been amended to be gender neutral; 2. All CRVS laws have been amended to be gender neutral; 3. All Job Descriptions has been amended to be gender neutral; 4. New CRVS legislation drafting instructions ongoing for CRVS and National ID Bills. 	Female Empowerment through the politics of language, and introduction of Gender-Neutral Amendments in all related electoral laws and CRVS laws.
Output 2 <i>Integrity and Accuracy of the Voter Register Enhanced</i> Gender marker: 2	2.1 Proportion of eligible voters who are registered to vote, disaggregated by sex, age, and location – to be done on a yearly basis	Data reports from voter register (GRVS and VES) and civil register (VIZ).	<p><i>The concept of registering voters may seem simple - a list of all persons who are eligible to vote and adequate information to uniquely identify each eligible voter, yet implementation consumes a huge number 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>Penama 15,266 Forms Deaths: 86 New Birth registrations: 4,359 Reprinted National ID cards: 9,040 Reprinted Birth Certificates: 7,415</p>	<p>Vanuatu will ultimately have an accurate civil and voter registration 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>



			<p>Malampa: 23,384 Forms Deaths: 150 New Birth registrations: 7021 Reprinted National ID card: 11,522 Reprinted Birth Certificate: 7,313</p> <p>Tafea: 17,728 forms Deaths: 462 New Birth registrations: 8,002 Reprinted National ID card: 11,634 Reprinted Birth Certificate: 9,707</p> <p>Shefa: so far 26,661 forms collected Deaths: 439 New Birth registrations: 5,781 Reprinted National ID card: 12,251 Reprinted Birth Certificate: 9,391</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 Q1 2021, the number of voters issued with a national ID card is (Gender disaggregated) was: F: 47,584 M: 51,540</p> <p>By Q2 2021, (10/June/21) the number of voters issued with a national ID card (Gender disaggregated) was: Female: 73,721 Male: 77,507</p>	<p>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>By Q1 Achieved 99,000 By Q2 Achieved 151,228</p>



				<i>Target 200,000</i>
	2.3 <i>Percentage of merge of databases/transition to new voter registration model.</i>	Data reports from voter register (GRVS) and civil register (VIZ).	<p><i>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 being verified, validated, and cleaned of incorrect data, duplicates, deceased and typical errors.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Currently there are 305,009 voters registered in the GVRS</i> - <i>Duplicates already removed from GVRS: 20,606.</i> - <i>Number of cleaned data records: 54,000</i> <p><i>Note: Data being updated/verified at time of report preparation</i></p> <p><i>Note: In order to ensure the integrity of the voter registration process and data, the VEO intends to conduct an inspection process of the voter register datasets at area council level to produce an accurate, reliable, and up-to-date electoral roll before the full and final merge. After the inspection, the required updates and corrections will be undertaken by the data-entry officers at the VEO office in Port Vila. Hereafter, voters can no longer vote with electoral cards.</i></p>	<p>Vanuatu will ultimately have <i>one</i> '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 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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. UNDP/VEEP and MoH have liaised on the systematic collection of data of deceased people, so far 400 was previously reported for 2020; 2. Field work data seem to indicate another 1,000 deceased over the years; 3. Duplicates so far removed from the GVRs database are 20,606. <p><i>Note: Data being updated/verified at time of report preparation</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. 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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>The project supported setting up a Helpdesk function ahead of provincial elections in collaboration with the OGCIO Office with 5 phone lines for three days, connected with the main VEO number to address any queries from voters;</i> 2. <i>The project supported on-going data entry and data consolidation based on field work updates, verifications and 'de-facto' new registrations through the recruitment of 30 data entry students. This is part of the UNDP/VEEP support to the 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. Technical support activities were further developed, incl. technical assistance, mobile application development, data analysis, data cleaning, removal of duplicates. Development of a data-entry system monitoring tool;</i> 	<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. (currently on trial basis)</p>



			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. <i>The project supported publication of the Candidate List on FB, Website, VEO and provincial offices;</i> 4. <i>The project developed an updated and merged version of the Electoral Roll in support of integrating VES and GRVS, and the preparation of the digital electoral roll, per polling station. 34,999 electors from VES were added to the GVRs database, as these electors were not registered in GVRs with the National ID Number. These electors were able to vote using the national ID card only;</i> 5. <i>The Project supported printing of paper-based electoral rolls, per polling station;</i> 6. <i>The project supported development of a Mobile Application for Voter Identification in polling stations based on tablet scanning ability, linked with the electoral roll;</i> 7. <i>The project supported development of a self-service scanning application at the Convention Center for ID verification;</i> 8. <i>The project supported development of a CRVS mobile application for data verification;</i> 9. <i>The project supported development of a self-service QR Code scanning application for ID verification that is installed at the CRVS Department entrance.</i> 10. <i>The project assisted in preparing and deploying 250 Tablets for use at Polling Stations in the May Provincial Elections;</i> 	<p>The VEEP project has many unexpected outcomes which demonstrates the flexible VEEP approach to not only improve the electoral environment but to “pivot, respond, adapt and innovate” by seizing opportunities to develop strategies to “value add” to VEEP Project investment and outcomes..</p>
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			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. <i>The project supported electoral operations for 4 Provincial Elections on 12 May technically, logistically, administratively, and financially;</i> 12. <i>The project continued to follow-up on prototype system development and the Covid19 vaccine registry with MoH, and set up scanning stations at vaccination sites;</i> 13. <i>The project supported training of VEO, CRVS, MOH, OGCIO, MOF, MOET, VNPF, and VNSO 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 in analysing and addressing performance issues in Ministry SQL Server environment, in addition to OGCIO experts, limiting reliance on only few individuals. The technical training was undertaken over five days from 14-18 June. The training was online, using a virtual platform and virtual labs provided by a specialized company based in Australia, NextTech. Good feedback received so far, with wishes for additional modules to be built on;</i> 14. <i>Roll-out of COVID19 vaccination programme based on National ID. The MOH has requested CRVS support in setting-up registration stations at the Convention Center for registration/printing/lamination of National ID Cards, and Birth Certificates, as well as volunteers and use of tablets for verification purposes during the Vaccine roll out. The project has supported this</i> 	
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			<p><i>process with mobile application development, preparation of tablets and training of volunteers for this purpose. The current plan is to have 10 teams and 2 volunteers per team. The roll out commenced early June and required all tablets to be reset, updated, tested and ready for use. The project also developed a full working vaccine registration application to demonstrate the feasibility of linking the Vaccine Programs with the CRVS data citizen data. The project also developed a self-service scanning application at the Convention Center for ID verification;</i></p> <p>15. <i>Supported overseeing the operations, especially use of 400 tablets. The project assisted in preparing and deploying 250 Tablets (of the 400 tablets previously procured for use in field data verification for electoral roll verification) for use at Polling Stations in the May Provincial Elections;</i></p> <p>16. <i>VEEP prepared a web application similar to the one that has been used by the VEO, for National ID card verification. The web application can be accessed from anywhere inside the VANGO network, but now to be tested in the Provinces before using it in full/implementation. The information is from the RegisterVIZ production database, and the application server is for the moment in UNDP/VEEP office. Requirements are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I. Network User</i> <i>II. Laptop/computer connected to the VANGO network</i> <i>III. Barcode readers</i> <p>17. <i>The project supported the design and roll out of Election Results Management System for data-entry/tallying/reporting/statistics, tailored to</i></p>	
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			<p><i>each type of elections. The system is integrated with the GRVS and the CRVS database and makes use of the National ID Number. User training was provided for VEO staff and data entry students on the system;</i></p> <p>18. <i>The project featured in UN ESCAP CRVS Insight, April 2021, with article: Vanuatu to roll out ID verification system for coming elections;</i></p> <p>19. <i>Global Grants Program application and proposal (150\$) submitted to The Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative - Application decisions were shared via email by June 15, 2021. Urgent review of all the processes on vital events is needed, aligned with updating the legal framework, and CRVS is now focused on and planning for the following division of focus:</i></p> <p><i>I. UNDP/VEEP supporting legal reform (CRVS law, national ID law, procedures handbook etc.)</i></p> <p><i>II. UN ESCAP supporting business process mapping and reengineering</i></p> <p><i>III. Bloomberg GGP supporting integration of CRVS and health systems</i></p>	
<p>Output 3</p> <p><i>Ability to Conduct Voter Education and Raise Public Awareness strengthened</i></p>	<p><i>3.1 Number of new partnerships with civil society developed (Women, PWDs, churches), as well as regional bodies, and national and international stakeholders.</i></p>	<p>NGO mapping</p> <p>Voter Awareness Committee TORs</p> <p>Minutes of Meetings</p> <p>List of Participants</p>	<p>1. <i>Continued to support meetings of the Voter Awareness Committee (10 members from NGOs CSOs GoV and media), also established during the General Elections in 2020, as a mechanism to coordinate some key stakeholders, manage clear messages and disseminate information;</i></p> <p>2. <i>Continued strong efforts of Voter Information and Voter Awareness through national radio VBTC (8 weeks of daily spots (280 broadcasts); commercial radio (9 one-hour Buzz FM shows);</i></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>



<p>Gender Marker 2</p>			<p><i>TV (112 broadcasts in Prime Time); Facebook messages; Website; newspaper (9 articles in Daily Post); billboards, small videos, and efforts through the Voter Awareness Committee partners in the islands;</i></p> <p><i>3. Supported a National Talk Back Radio program on VBTC with Electoral Senior Management;</i></p> <p><i>4. Continuous support to VEO Facebook which now has 4,524 followers of whom 44% are women and 55% re men in Port Vila, Luganville, Fiji, New Caledonia NZ and Solomon Islands;</i></p> <p><i>5. Re-design and printing of Awareness Posters, (6,350) disseminated;</i></p> <p><i>6. "My Provincial Election" - week-by-week Booklet, drafted around key messages, graphically designed, and translated into Bislama (1,000 copies), disseminated through the Voter Awareness Committee members and provincial offices;</i></p> <p><i>7. Two motivational movie clips were designed and produced incl. "I Vote" by awarded filmmaker;</i></p> <p><i>8. One Short Film has been developed about the National ID introduction and history 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. The focus was on "Visibility in Covid-19 times: Are we getting everyone in the picture through civil registration?"</i></p>	<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>
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			<p>9. <i>Media exposure during the Provincial Elections was supported by the VEEP project, including two major radio campaigns on BUZZ FM and Radio Vanuatu. Radio Shows were held once a week on Buzz FM + National TV Talk Back Shows, and every week FB key messages were posted in line with legal provisions;</i></p> <p>10. <i>3 x SMS messages sent nationally through both Digicel/Vodaphone: SMS 1 reached 141,473 citizens; SMS 2 reached 142,405; SMS 3 reached 154,245 citizens;</i></p> <p>11. <i>Three Billboards were designed and put up in Port Vila on strategic locations;</i></p> <p>12. <i>The project also developed a Concept Note for Provincial Council Open Day – Civic and Voter Awareness event in the provinces, possibly to be implemented in Q3-4;</i></p> <p>13. <i>Similarly developed a Concept Paper and support activities on National ID awareness campaign, the benefits of having/using National ID;</i></p> <p>14. <i>Established the storyboard of a short film documentary 'The story of the National ID Introduction in Vanuatu' as a longer and more comprehensive version in preparation for the Ministerial Conference in Bangkok planned for November 2021 (2x storyboards);</i></p> <p>15. <i>The project has also developed a storyboard for production of short UNDP/VEEP documentary clarifying the purpose and impact of the project;</i></p>	
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			<p>16. Contributed to a CRVS movie production in connection with 50 year's anniversary, and have contributed with interviews;</p> <p>17. Prepared an article in June for release in Q3 on multiple Web Sites, Social Media platforms - "How An Agile Response Transformed Vanuatu's Civil Register System At A Time Of Crisis."</p>	
	3.2 Percentage of matrix on gender tracking in elections developed, including gender-disaggregated data on all aspects of the electoral administration	VEO database	In progress Gender expert to join in Q3-4.	
	3.3 Percentage of matrix on gender tracking in Civil Registry developed, including gender-disaggregated data	CRVS Department databases	In progress Gender expert to join in Q3-4.	
	3.4 Assessment on civic understanding and access to information implemented.		<p>This activity is on stand-by till Q3.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 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; 2. Numerous attempts of requests have not been granted yet. Information should be available by May 2021. 	
Output 4 Legal Electoral Framework Improved and Capacity Building on Electoral Reform	4.1 Number of viable and practical reform proposals developed	Amendment to CAP 61 Explanatory Note National ID Working Group minutes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Followed up on legal amendments for Parliament session, Cap 61, Cap 230, Cap 126. Parliament ordinary session on 14 May; 2. The Government introduced 23 Bills for First Ordinary Session. These included: Bill for the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 	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



<p><i>to Key Stakeholders provided</i></p> <p>Gender Marker 2</p>		<p><i>Order No. 24 of 2020 for CAP 230 Provincial Council Elections Amendment to CAP 126 Municipal Council Elections</i></p>	<p><i>Bill for the Civil Status (Registration) (Amendment) Act;</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>3. Three EC regulations and the code of conducts has been approved, signed and recorded in the official Government Gazette, General Election Order no. 127 of 2021, Municipal Government Council Election Regulations Order no. 128 of 2021 and Provincial Government Council Election Regulations Order no. 129 of 2021;</i> <i>4. Two Legal Reform working groups have been established:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1) Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) /national ID reform group. Discussion papers 1-5 developed and debated. Drafting instructions on new CRVS law and new National ID law underway.</i> <i>2) electoral legal reform group. Concept Note and WG scope of work developed;</i> <i>5. The project is supporting and pursuing a comprehensive review of CRVS in Vanuatu through collaboration with ESCAP-CRVS through with UNDP/VEEPs national ID expert. Focus is on CRVS strategy, CRVS business processes and CRVS software systems. CRVS law and National ID are listed for Second Ordinary Session of Parliament in November;</i> <i>6. Development of a CRVS Operational Handbook to be developed in Q4 once the draft Bills are ready, in addition to CRVS procedures training;</i> <i>7. Start preparations for support Electoral Legal Reforms, to draft and replace Cap 146, and to</i> 	<p>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>
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			<p><i>harmonise all the dispersed electoral laws and regulations into one single Electoral Act;</i></p> <p><i>8. Continue to support COVID19 Vaccination efforts, and during Q3 expand to the provinces.</i></p>	
	4.2 <i>Number of electoral staff (gender disaggregated) trained on new reform measures</i>		<i>Q3-4</i>	
	4.3 <i>Number of key stakeholders trained on new reform measures</i>		<i>Q3-4</i>	
	4.4 <i>Electoral Gender mainstreaming action plan for the project developed and monitored</i>		<p><i>1. Gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan – TORs developed</i></p> <p><i>2. PWD mainstreaming strategy and action plan – TORs developed, candidate identified, recruitment ongoing</i></p>	



PART 3: PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR THIRD QUARTER, 2021

Output 1:

- Prepare a Restructure Submission for the Office of the Public Service Commission (OPSC), await endorsement by the Director General of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA). A linked budget request – a New Policy Project or NPP to be prepared to provide salary budget for prioritised vacant and new staffing positions in the 2022 GoV Budget Cycle;
- Prepare a Restructure Submission for the Vanuatu Electoral Commission with the critical new post of a Political Party Registrar to support registration, compliance and integrity of party registration. This Submission will require minuted approval by a Commission meeting before progressing to the OPSC for appraisal;
- Continue to support VEO in building its decentralised provincial electoral offices, as well as CRVS offices, put in place office and network arrangements to support this structure where needed. Procurement and implementation of a 'provincial package' for each provincial office (desk, chair, laptop, printer, phone, scanner, zoom equipment (speaker and webcam), poster material, manuals, and in some cases, a satellite disc where GoV network is not available. Preparations for central procurement on ongoing basis;
- In case of 19 by-elections, support development of booster Training Concept and Agenda. Polling training agenda and training material power point, simulation exercises;
- Support training booster through use of already developed Training Material, including audio material/video productions (some videos need small updates), 3x audio video productions to support visuals and to boost the efforts of the training manual;
- Support planning and logistics for training of Polling Staff;
- Arrival of UNDP/VEEP procured additional pre-printed national ID cards;
- Arrival of security lamination rolls and consumables/upgrade of printers (UNCDF);
- Complete the satellite imageries for all provinces, incl. demarcation and alignment of electoral boundaries/area councils etc. All Atlas maps to be completed, added w. layer of health clinics, schools, walking distance to polling stations. Establish final list of consolidated villages, Excel sheet and Shapefile. Meet with IOM on evacuation centres. Meet with PMO office on IDP tracking.

Output 2:

- Set up of Helpdesk function ahead of municipal by-elections in Port Vila, provincial elections in Torba. In collaboration with OGCIIO Office of the Government/Prime Minister's Office with 5 lines for three days, connected with the main VEO number
- Support on-going data entry and data consolidation based on field work updates, verifications and 'de-facto' new registrations;
- Support publication of Candidate List on FB, Website, VEO and provincial offices;
- Keep working on merging of VES and GRVS, and preparation of digital electoral roll, per polling station;



- Support preparation and printing of paper-based electoral rolls, per polling station;
- Update the recently developed Mobile Application for Voter Identification in polling stations based on tablet scanning ability, linked with the electoral roll;
- Support Electoral Operations for potential 19 by-elections (depending on Court Decision);
- Support Electoral Operations for Port Vila Municipal by-elections;
- Review of the Provincial component of Electoral Results System and the development of another two modules for General Elections and Municipal Elections.
- Prepare a user's manual for the Results Management System and ID QR Code Scan System (VEO and CRVS).
- Continue support to COVID19 vaccination roll-out in provinces, financially and technically. Roll-out of COVID19 vaccination programme based on National ID. The MOH has requested CRVS support in terms of volunteers and use of tablets for verification purposes during the Vaccine roll out; Support mobile application development, preparation of tablets and train some volunteers for this purpose. There will most likely be 10 teams and 2 volunteers per team. The roll out will commence on June 1st but would require the tablets beforehand to be reset, updated, tested and ready for use;
- Support overseeing the operations specially to use of tablets;
- Support the data validation for Torba province;
- Follow up on training of VEO, CRVS, MOH, OGCIO, 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 partner/stakeholder Ministries;
- Set up data validation scanners in Luganville and Port Vila in central locations;
- In collaboration with UN ESCAP, keep the momentum of the CRVS Working Group and legal drafting going. VEEP consultants Frank Nan will provide policy guidance and Michael Wright will develop drafting instructions for the proposed new CRVS Act and the proposed new National ID Act, including identity management;
- Support CRVS performance and participation in upcoming high level ministerial CRVS event in BKK for Asia and the Pacific;
- Complete the production of a documentary movie as per established story board, telling the story of CRVS in Vanuatu "National ID in Vanuatu, are we really getting everyone in the picture?"
- Follow up on Global Grants Program application (150\$) submitted to The Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative - Application decisions will be shared via email by end June 2021.

Q4:

- Support the data validation and verification project in Torba Province;
- Support the electoral preparations for Torba Provincial elections;
- Capacity building of VEO and CRVS Department technical staff - mobile apps and how to generate an updated Electoral Roll using mobile database;
- Review, test, implement, develop user's manual for the VES to GVRS voter transfer system.



- Support the installation of 20 QR Code stations to be installed in Port Vila and all Provinces for electoral data verification – Offline/Online version developed with a possibility of scanning the QR Code using the laptop camera or the Barcode Reader.
- Electoral Roll - produce a list of missing ID number from GVRs to be sent to all Provinces, support the voter list inspection at area council level;
- API – development of a test/production API - for basic NIDN information verification with OGCIO.

Output 3:

- In case of 19 unscheduled by-elections (depending on Court decision/outcomes), continue to support meetings of the Voter Awareness Committee as a mechanism to coordinate some key stakeholders, manage clear messages and disseminate information, and continue 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. Radio every Thursday Buzz FM, key messages, every week FB key message in line with legal provisions, 3 x SMS's all country Digicel/Vodophone. Billboards and social media;
- Follow up on 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 Concept Note;
- Complete the storyboards of two short film documentaries "The Story of the National ID introduction in Vanuatu" and the "UNDP/VEEP Scaled Up with Joint Digital Civil & Voter Registration Efforts;"
- 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;
- Preparations for the participation in the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Second Ministerial Conference planned to take place during 16- 19 November 2021 in BKK, organized by UN ESCAP with the support of several other UN agencies and partners including UNDP;
- Prepare article in June for release in July on multiple Web Sites, Social Media platforms - "How An Agile Response Transformed Vanuatu's Civil Register System At A Time Of Crisis."
- Develop a Teacher's Manual and a Student Workbook in support of the Civic Education Booklet entitled "Vanuatu Blong Yu", for use in schools and other learning environments.

Output 4:

- Continue legal drafting in collaboration with State Law Office on revision of electoral legislation and harmonisation of law to capture current disparate legislation and regulations;
- Continue to support the two Legal Reform Working Groups established to focus on:
 - 1) civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) /national ID reform group. Discussion papers 1-5 and policies and new drafting instructions for SLO, and
 - 2) the electoral legal reform group. Concept notes developed and scope of work established.



- 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;
- Support to coordination of Bloomberg's Global grant program
- Provide technical support to development of applications for MoH and CRVS integration of data, development of API for inter-operability, explore integration of systems;

PART 4: PARTNERSHIPS

- National partnerships: EC/VEO, CRVS, CSU, VNSO, DLA, MOH, MoET, MoF, DoW, DSSPAC, OGCIO, VBTC
- The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) with focus on digital economy work.
- United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) with focus on improvement of civil registration processes.
- Bloomberg Philanthropies, Data for Health Initiative (CRVS, Global Grants Program) with focus on integrating Public Health Systems with CRVS data.
- The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) with focus on birth registration
- UN's World Health Organisation (WHO) with focus on death registration and COVID19 vaccination in Vanuatu.



PART 5: 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 governmental and civil society with a view to have ample 	STRENGTHENED OWNERSHIP BY VEC/VEO



						<p>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</p>	<p>Lack of confidence in work of VEO; Low confidence in project impact</p> <p>The current 'voluntary</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 	VOTER REGISTRY IS UPDATED SYSTEMATICALLY



			<p>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>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>		<p>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</p>	
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	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 REPSONSE TO EMERGENCY ELECTIONS



			workplan and priorities.				
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 trusted voter register) will help improve public perceptions. 	PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN EC/VEO
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 6: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

The project featured in UN ESCAP CRVS Insight, April 2021, with article: Vanuatu to roll out ID verification system for coming elections.

Two final render broadcast ready files ("I vote") have been produced and disseminated through Facebook and TV, encouraging voters to go vote on Election Day.

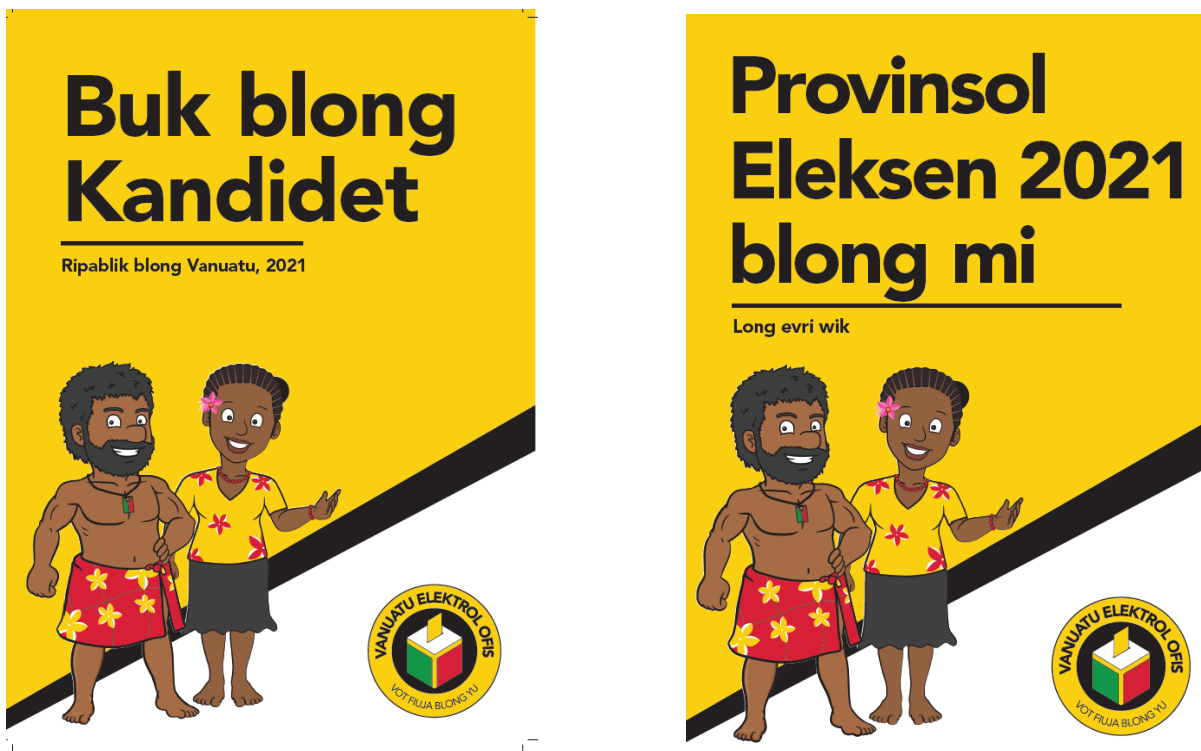
Here are the links:

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

and

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

The project supported the development and translation of two knowledge products:



An article was drafted about UNDP/VEEP support in Vanuatu and how VEEP scaled up with joint digital civil & voter registration efforts, some of the impacts of it "How an agile response transformed Vanuatu's civil register system at a time of crisis | UNDP in the Pacific." This article will however only be posted in Q3.



PART 7: KEY LESSONS LEARNT AND CHALLENGES

The up-scaled 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 2019. Developed with the objective to verify CRVS's civil information and VEO's 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 youths registered, and thousands of Birth Certificates and National ID cards reprinted and/or printed.

The initial technical process using 70 procured tablets in Malo, Aore in Sanma Province and all Penama province had to be adapted to appropriately support the field work in Malampa, Tafea and Shefa provinces which 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. In response, another 30 data entry students (in addition to current 25 students) were identified, recruited, and trained in the three databases to increase the data processing ahead of the 12 May provincial elections. These data entry officers ended their contracts by mid-June, although Torba province remains to be data validated and verified.

Financial constraints have had a strong impact on the entire process which has caused delays in processing the data, data that would have significant impact the quality of the electoral roll for the May 2021 provincial elections. As the data validation (and registration) project has been done in phases and per Province, the field work operators have not all been the same. New trainings were delivered at provincial and area council level in each province, and sometimes the quality of the data collected varied. Good quality training is often a key factor in the success of any project, and VEO and CRVS Department have been working hard to support the training, not only in the field but also in Port Vila (cascade training). Another challenge has been the logistics, as the population is so dispersed, particularly in some of the islands, not to mention the spread of the islands. Access to good vehicles, boats, and sometimes chartered flights to support field staff mobility on the ground in some remote area councils was problematic.

PART 8: SUSTAINABILITY AND SCALING UP

In terms of sustainability, the increasing ICT capacity and database development as well as maintenance skills within the VEO and CRVS departments is a major requirement. Given the many ongoing activities and having so many staff in the field has challenged VEEP's ability to ensure proper ICT capabilities and database development skills. A technical training was however organised over five days from 14-18 June with the participation of IT technicians from several segments of the Government, including MOIA (VEO, CRVS), MOH, OGCIO, MOF, MOET, VNSO, VMPF. The training focused 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 was to build capacities in analysing and addressing performance issues in Ministry SQL Server environment, and, in addition to OGCIO experts, limiting reliance on only few individuals. The training was online, using a virtual platform and virtual labs provided by a specialised company. Really good feedback received so far, with wishes for additional modules to be built on.

One effective tool used during the verification project has been the use of satellite imageries, supported by the VEEP project. These imageries and Atlas maps are the result of combined efforts of UNDP/VEEP, UNDP Crisis Bureau, and United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) who collaboratively have developed these detailed maps and visual analysis to support the process. Maps were installed in all tablets providing a sound overview and detailed information of the households and their exact locations to the field operators. These maps can any time be added new layers if new information and GIS coordinates is received, so that they remain accurate and updated for all national and international stakeholders.

UNDP/VEEP continued to support the COVID-19 vaccination efforts by setting up a 'registration station' at the Convention Centre with trained CRVS and VEO officers, a new lamination printer to register citizens and print national ID cards on the spot, incl issuing Birth Certificates. The project also developed a full working vaccine registration application to demonstrate the feasibility of linking the Vaccine Programs with the CRVS data citizen data. Several demonstrations were provided to MOIA and MOH and international stakeholders. The project also developed a self-service scanning application at the Convention Center for ID verification. From August, the project will support the vaccination process with trained youth volunteers in the field and develop a Mobile ID card scanning system that can work without connectivity, enabling application of the system during field registration.



Meetings have also been held with PMO's Department of Strategic Policy Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC) 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. Efforts will slowly start to establish a platform to support data integration and data interoperability between Government datasets in collaboration with OGCIO, building the Vanuatu population registry.



PART 9: QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT



Financial Report as at 30th June 2021

Currency of Reporting: USD

INCOME:

Fund received - Dec 2020

358,448.28

Fund received - Jun 2021

214,927.42

573,375.70

EXPENSES:

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	ATLAS	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	Budget 2021	Actual Expenses	Total Expenses	Balance
Output 1: <i>Institutional Capacities of the Electoral Authorities Strengthened</i>	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	14,578.80	14,578.80	15,421.20
	1.2	1.2 Support the EC/VEO in continuous development/updating of regulations, operational procedures, manuals, forms etc.	30,000	6,386.00	6,386.00	23,614.00
<i>Gender marker: 2</i>	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	-	-	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	7,545.94	7,545.94	12,454.06
	1.5	1.5 Support digitization, digital archiving and knowledge base – including digital files into the Government Document Management System (Saperion).	40,000	-	-	40,000.00
	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	20,045.93	20,045.93	19,954.07
	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	-	-	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	-	-	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	-	-	10,000.00
	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	-	-	60,000.00
	1.11	1.11 Post-election Review : Support a Multi-stakeholder Post-election Review (EC/VEO, Gov authorities, CSOs, FBOs, PPs etc.);	20,000	-	-	20,000.00
	1.12	1.12 Effective technical advisory services and project implementation	95,000	87,051.63	87,051.63	7,948.37
		1.13 Direct Project Costs Programme management costs (rent, equipment, DPC, etc.)	5,000	-	-	5,000.00
		Sub-Total for Output 1	430,000	135,608	135,608	294,392



Output 2: <i>Integrity and Accuracy of the Voter Register Enhanced</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	17,041.07	17,041.07	12,958.93
	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	12,842.34	17,157.66
<i>Gender marker: 2</i>	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	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	545.31	39,454.69
	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	-	-	10,000.00
	2.6	2.6 Support the development of a SMS service for Voter verification based on the National Id Number.	30,000	-	-	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	3,814.78	3,814.78	36,185.22
	2.8	2.8 Develop a centralized a CRVS/VEO citizen image database.	20,000	-	-	20,000.00
	2.9	2.9 Develop and implement a facial recognition system with the objective to identify possible matches in CRVS/VEO databases.	30,000	-	-	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	-	-	30,000.00
	2.11	2.11 Develop a study/prototype for database verification and results transmission auditing processes..	15,000	-	-	15,000.00
	2.13	2.12 Develop a study/prototype for database verification & results transmission auditing processes.	15,000	7,173.73	7,173.73	7,826.27
	2.12	2.13 Effective technical advisory services and project implementation	95,000	63,230.39	63,230.39	31,769.61
		2.14 Direct Project Costs	5,000	-	-	5,000.00
		Sub-Total for Output 2	400,000	115,876	115,876	284,124
Output 3: <i>Ability to Conduct Voter Education and Raise Public Awareness strengthened</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	6,561.97	6,561.97	3,438.03
<i>Gender marker: 2</i>	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	10,000	-	-	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	7,741.88	7,741.88	22,258.12
	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	8,841.88	8,841.88	1,158.12
	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	20,327.30	20,327.30	19,672.70
	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	-	-	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 grassroot outreach and activities.	30,000	903.21	903.21	29,096.79
	3.8	3.8 Support a youth induction training in Municipal Local Council (MLC) functioning and elections/Provincial Local Council (PLC) functioning and elections, in collaboration with PPEL, SLIP, Parliament	15,000	-	-	15,000.00
	3.9	3.9 Effective technical advisory services and project implementation	95,000	65,208.65	65,208.65	29,791.35
		3.10 Direct Project Costs	5,000	-	-	5,000.00
		Sub-Total for Output 3	285,000	109,585	109,585	175,415



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	-	-	20,000.00
<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	9,885.94	9,885.94	20,114.06
	4.3	4.3 Provide support to national consultations regarding impact of legal framework changes	30,000	-	-	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	-	-	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	-	-	30,000.00
	4.6	4.6 Support political parties to understand and adhere to the legal framework	20,000	-	-	20,000.00
	4.7	4.7 Support development and implementation of data protection/data security policy and related legislation.	10,000	-	-	10,000.00
	4.8	4.8 Effective technical advisory services and project implementation	95,000	64,714.51	64,714.51	30,285.49
			Project Monitoring, communication and visibility	2,000	0.00	0.00
		Sub-Total for Output 4	247,000	74,600	74,600	172,400
		Total All Outputs	1,362,000	435,669.67	435,669.67	926,330.33
	5	General Management Support @ 8%	108,960	39,892.90	39,892.90	69,067.10
		Total Expenditure	1,470,960	475,562.57	475,562.57	995,397
		Balance as at 30th June 2021			97,813.13	
		Fund Utilization Rate as at 30th June 2021 compared to Funds received so far			83%	
		Fund Utilization Rate as at 30th June 2021 compared to 2021 Budget			32%	



PART 10: 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: <i>Anne-Sofie Gerhard</i>	Signature: <i>Revai Makanje</i>



ANNEXES

Annex 1 - Election Day Statistics

Introduction

On 12 May 2021, provincial elections were held in the four out of six provinces Malampa, Penama, Shefa and Tafea. Overall, the elections took place under good and peaceful conditions and voter turn-out seemed much higher than in the past. Nevertheless, there is not enough information to quantify the changes in these elections as compared to previous ones. Yet this paper intends to present a few basic facts and figures regarding these 2021 provincial elections in Vanuatu.

Voter and National ID Awareness Activities and Products:

A number of voter and national ID awareness actions were conducted for the provincial elections, including the following:

1. **A Voter Awareness Committee** was established, comprising 10 committee members from various GoV, NGOs, CSOs and media, and two Awareness Committee meetings were held in the months of March and April;
2. **Electoral Awareness Posters:** nine different Electoral Awareness Posters were newly edited with a total 6,330 posters printed and distributed to islands;
3. **'My Provincial Election week by week 2021'** booklet was developed, translated, and printed and distributed through the Voter Awareness Committee member organisations, and through provincial offices/area administrators. 1,000 Bislama printed, plus in English?
4. Three **Billboards** were developed and placed at different strategically important locations on Efate;
5. Nine one-hour **talk shows** were organised every Thursday at BUZZ FM, followed by **nine Daily post articles** on the content and topics of the talk show;
10. Weekly **newspaper Ad Banners/streamers** were placed in the weekend edition of Daily Post;
11. A **National Television VBTC Talk Show** of 1 hour was organised with Electoral Senior Management;
12. 8 weeks of **daily TV spots at Prime Time at TBV station** (VBTC) = 112 Broadcasts;
13. 8 weeks of **daily radio spots on Radio Vanuatu** (VBTC) = 280 Broadcasts;
14. Two 30 second **TV spots/Video Commercial Productions** for **VBTC**;
15. Two 30 second **Radio spots** for **Radio Vanuatu**;
16. Three **direct SMS messages** sent to people in Penama, Malampa, Shefa, and Tafea provinces who have a phone from each of the 2 phone companies, Digicel and Vodafone – SMS 1 reached 141,473 citizens, SMS 2 reached 142,405 citizens, SMS 3 reached 154,245 citizens;



17. **Facebook updates:** VEOs Facebook now has 4,524 followers. The most popular post (Awareness video 'I vote because..') reaching 17,600 people through boosted messages. Of the followers, 44% are women and 55% are men, primarily from the age group 25-34 years, hereof 3,500 in Port Vila area, followed by Luganville area, Fiji, New Caledonia, NZ and Solomon Islands.
18. **Awareness activities in the islands** – Voter Awareness Committee members like Transparency International carried out awareness activities in Paama and Ambryn, Women's centre in Santo etc.;
19. One **CRVS 2-minute video production** made for Vanuatu's Civil Register & Vital Statistics (CRVS) Department, presenting Vanuatu's introduction of civil registration and issuing of National ID cards building an updated and accurate central civil register at **the 8th Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD)** on 23 - 26 March 2021 with the theme of *Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in Asia and the Pacific*;

Training and Capacity Building

Additionally, a number of training and capacity building activities were undertaken, including:

1. A **Candidate Handbook** booklet was updated, translated and printed (320 Bislama copies) and handed out to all political parties/candidates along with application forms;
2. The **Polling and Counting Manual**, booklet was updated, translated and printed (500 Bislama copies) and used for training of registration officers, and distributed to all polling stations;
3. A two-day **Training of Trainers** (ToT) was held in Port Vila for a total of 21 registration officials, provincial officers and staff from the provinces on polling and counting;
4. Approximately 1,150 registration and polling workers were trained through the cascade training programme over a period of 2 weeks;
5. **Three training audio-video productions** so supplement **training material** for VEO electoral officers and polling staff in the field, to support cascade training.

Political Landscape:

The provincial elections were held under the following context:

1. Number of candidates, including independent candidates: **301**
2. Gender balance: **4 female candidates / 297 male candidates, equal to 1.3% women and 98.7% men**
3. Candidate Age groups:

<i>Candidate age groups:</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>
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18 – 30		6
30 – 50	2	178
50 – 70	2	111
Over 70		2

4. Number of petitions received: 2 (as of end May '21)

Voter Landscape:

1. Overview of registered voters, per province and total, disaggregated by gender.

Registered Voters per Province:	Female	Male	Total 2021	Total 2017	Increase by	Increase %
Penama	16,833	16,579	33,412	24,989	8,423	25%
Malampa	20,103	20,319	40,422	26,476	13,946	35%
Shefa, excl. Port Vila	29,241	29,495	58,736	38,886	19,850	34%
Tafea	24,771	22,343	47,114	31,164	15,950	34%
			-			
Total number of voters in the four provinces	90,948	88,736	179,684	121,515	58,169	32%

Percentage of the total number of registered voters in Vanuatu to vote in the four Provincial Elections	60%	58%	59%
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2. Polling overview



Provinces:	Polling Stations	Votes Cast	Void	Valid Votes	% voted
Penama	55	15,665	239	15,426	46%
Malampa	57	21,190	124	21,066	52%
Shefa, excl. Port Vila	63	25,291	239	25,052	43%
Tafea	48	20,913	256	20,657	44%
Total for all the four provinces	223	83,059	858	82,201	46%

Constituency overview breakdown

Constituency	Registered Voters	Votes Cast	Void Votes	Valid Votes	Seats	Candidates Contested
Pentecost	18,422	9,252	157	9,095	8	46
Ambae	11,292	4,109	66	4,043	6	20
Maewo	3,676	2,304	16	2,288	2	7
Penama Total	33,390	15,665	239	15,426	16	73



Paama	1,622	824	9	815	2	5
Ambrym	8,559	4,115	49	4,066	4	10
Malekula	30,215	16,251	66	16,185	15	66
Malampa Total	40,396	21,190	124	21,066	21	81
Efate	43,486	17,470	148	17,322	8	61
Epi	7,062	3,830	29	3,801	3	8
Emae	821	464	2	462	1	3
Tonga	2,838	1,181	33	1,148	1	3
Tongariki & Buninga	421	235	1	234	1	2
Makura & Mataso	258	167	1	166	1	3
Emau	841	415	3	412	1	4
Moso & Lelepa	1,009	584	1	583	1	3



Nguna & Pele	2,008	945	21	924	1	7
Shefa Total	58,744	25,291	239	25,052	18	94
Tanna	42,366	18,887	235	18,652	15	42
Erromango	2,567	1,092	14	1,078	1	5
Aniwa	489	270	6	264	1	2
Futuna	491					
Aneityum	1,171	664	1	663	1	3
Tafea Total	47,084	20,913	256	20,657	18	52

Electoral Observation landscape:

A number of national and international organizations were accredited to observe the provincial elections, as follows:

NZ High Commission	10
British High Commission	2
Japanese Embassy	2



Australian High Commission	2
MSG	6
FM 107	12
VBTC	19
Daily Post	3
Buzz FM	1
Total	57



Annex 2 - PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS CHALLENGES & RESOLUTIONS PAPER (MAY 2021)

Introduction

On 12 May 2021, provincial elections were held in the four out of six provinces Malampa, Penama, Shefa and Tafea. Overall, the elections took place under good and peaceful conditions and voter turn-out seemed much higher than in the past. Nevertheless, there is not enough information to quantify the increased turnout in these elections as compared to previous ones, and there were a number of issues related to the transitional phase.

This paper identifies some of the basic issues and challenges experienced in the May 2021 Provincial Elections in Vanuatu, focusing on issues and lessons-learned to be resolved ahead of any coming elections.

1. **Voter's registered twice / Voter names missing on the Electoral Roll.**

Following the General Elections in March 2020, the VEO-CRVS implemented a joint verification process with the objective to improve the elector's data quality and to identify duplicated registrations, leading to 20,562 records being flagged as 'duplicates' in the GVRS database. At the same time, it became a de-facto registration exercise with thousands of new voters added to the electoral list, with an increase of 32% voters in the four provinces.

Electors can be registered only once in the database. When voters register, they figure as "Active" in the system. Following the duplicate analysis undertaken by VEO data entry teams, the identified duplicated records were flagged as "Duplicated" and, consequently, their names/profiles will not appear in the Electoral Roll. Only the latest registration is kept as valid/active. Consequently, some voters were not able to vote in the 2021 Provincial elections as they had registered to vote in both the Municipal Polling Stations, as well as in the Provincial Polling Stations (rural). As voters can only be registered once, and only in one polling station, their latest record would remain active and previous registrations flagged as duplicated to prevent multiple voting.

Proposed Resolution:

Increased awareness on this matter

2. **Inactive National ID Cards**

During the scanning process in polling stations via the mobile application, a message appeared in tablets when the National ID Number was not found in the electoral database, meaning that the National ID Card was not registered (activated) in the electoral database. To have his/her name on the Electoral Roll, the citizen must register as a voter using the National ID Number. Many voters were not aware of the dual registration requirement and tried to vote without having separately registered at the VEO. However, it is noted that the voters captured in the recent registration campaign were automatically added to both databases. Voters whose names were on the electoral roll but not with National ID activation could still vote. Unfortunately, many presiding officers sent them away to go and activate their ID cards at the VEO.

Proposed Resolution:

1. *Consider automating the move of all citizens to VES when reaching the age of 18.*



2. *Undertake increased awareness for polling station staff, Presiding Officers and intending voters.*
3. *System development support.*

3. VES migration to GRVS

Given the merge of VES and GRVS the Friday before election day, the voters that were added to the system over the weekend in Shefa province were not added in both systems and thus not carried over to the final rolls being printed. An extra list was prepared on election day and hastily brought out and added to the Electoral Rolls in polling stations, but it might have caused a number of voters being turned away and not being allowed to vote before the lists were received.

Proposed Resolution:

1. *Full and final merge of VES and GRVS and cease all double entries, working with only one electoral database.*
2. *Develop plan for the complete removal of all electoral cards and deceased, enabling the complete move to digital identification/registration in polling stations.*

4. Wrong Polling Station allocation

At three polling stations, (Efate & Malekula) voters were allocated wrong polling stations by field workers.

Proposed Resolution:

1. *Review this issue, move voters to correct PS,*
2. *liaise with registration officers/ area administrators to mitigate the issue*

5. Ambae IDP records not updated

Voters originally from Ambae but evacuated/displaced to Santo or Maewo during volcanic eruptions and cyclones, now returned to Ambae with non-compliant Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Profiles having moved back to Ambae and wanting to cast their vote there. However, their address and profile had not been updated to reflect their return to Ambae and voters were thus still registered to vote in Santo or Maewo as per original registration and could not vote.

Proposed Resolution:

1. *Send the provincial officer/ area administrator the list of Ambae for updates*

6. Very long lines and waiting time at polling stations

Many polling stations saw very long queues throughout the day, and some chiefs have put in applications for additional polling stations.

Proposed Resolution:

1. *Review the requirement to split mega stations into polling centres with several polling stations, as well as*
2. *Accelerate the complete move to digital identification which will significantly speed up voter processing and shorten queues.*