Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics
Bureau des Statistiques du Vanuatu

Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics Office

NATIONAL STRATEGY
FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF STATISTICS
2024-2028

Forward Message

The availability and accessibility of good quality statistical information is an integral part of the policy design and evaluation process; the development of research agendas; and the decision-making processes of governments, organizations and communities. As policy and research agendas change, so too does the demand for statistical information.

The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) document serves as a strategic roadmap for strengthening a country's statistical system. Its key objectives include enhancing data quality, aligning with national priorities, building local capacity, engaging stakeholders, and monitoring progress toward Vanuatu's National Sustainable Development goals. By integrating statistical work into national strategies, the NSDS ensures informed decision-making to meet our national priorities in order to contributes to the well-being of the people of Vanuatu.

This guideline document is part of the first guideline strategy road man back in 2016 to 2020. At that time the main aimed is to enhance statistical capacity and data management within Vanuatu. It focused on improving official statistics for policy formulation, planning, and decision-making. By integrating statistical work into national strategies.

A review of the document has been done in 2021 by the Partnership in Statistics for the Development in the 21st century (PARIS 21) and the result was made available by the end of that year. In 2022 the Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics together with a Consultant from the Stats New Zealand collaborated to develop the new strategy base on the recommendations done by the PARIS 21. All Stakeholders with in the National Statistical System divided into three groupings as the Economic group, Society group and the Environment groupings. They were all consulted for inputs towards the document.

The Vanuatu National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (VNSDS), spanning from 2024 to 2028, serves as a comprehensive framework to enhance statistical development within Vanuatu. Its objectives include effective coordination of the Vanuatu National Statistical System (VSS), resource mobilization, promotion of statistical use, and addressing data limitations. The strategy incorporates recommendations from a review of the previous VNSDS (2016–2020) conducted by PARIS21. While progress has been observed, challenges remain, including financial constraints and technical limitations. Additional funding secured in 2020 will boost the VSS's capability, supporting the country's aspirations for sustainable development.

Last but not least, I wish to thank all our international partners and consultants who take their to review the old NSDS and formulate the second NSDS including collaboration of VBoS staffs to facilitate stakeholder workshops and coordinate NSDS consultation meetings with heads of ministries and departments in assisting the consultant for drafting the document.

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Minister of Finance and Statistics

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Vanuatu

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The VBoS wishes to extend the gratitude and acknowledge Ms Anne McAlister a staff of the Stats New Zealand and a consultant who draft the Vanuatu National Strategy for the development of Statistics (VNSDS) in collaboration with the VBoS Staffs and colleagues across the VSS.

VSS stakeholders are very responsive in contributing towards various process starting from stakeholder's consultation right towards the drafting of the document. Stakeholders where divided into 3 main groupings following the three pillars of the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) namely the Society, Economic and Environment groupings. The list of stakeholder's contribution is listed in Annex 1 of this document.

Last but not least, I wish thank all VBoS staffs who take their time out of their busy schedules to help facilitate stakeholder workshops and coordinate NSDS consultation meetings with heads of ministries and departments in assisting the consultant for drafting the document.

These VNSDS is a living document which mean that activities will need to be reviewed occasionally to ensure that they continue to be relevant and align with the current statistical information needs of government and users and to maximise the benefits available from new methods, technologies, and developments in statistical standards.

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Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
BoP	Balance of Payments statistics
CAPI	Computer-assisted personal interview
CPI	Consumers Price Index
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
DCIR	Department of Customs and Inland Revenue
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DoE	Department of Energy
DoFT	Department of Finance and Treasury
DSPPAC	Department of Strategic Policy, Planning & Aid Coordination, PMO
DVIPS	Department of Vanuatu Immigration and Passport Services
e-GDDS	Enhanced General Data Dissemination System
ESNAR	Environment Statistics National Assessment Report
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
GAMSO	Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organisations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFS	Government Finance Statistics
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GRV	Government of the Republic of Vanuatu
GSBPM	Generic Statistical Business Process Model
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HIS	Health Information Systems
ICT	Information and communications technology
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMTS	International merchandise trade statistics
IT	Information technology
LFS	Labour Force Survey
MALFFB	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Bio-Security
MCCA	Ministry of Climate Change and Adaption
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MIPU	Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities
MLNRGM	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Geology and Mines
MoET	Ministry of Education and Training
MFEM	Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoIA	Ministry of Internal Affairs
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MTTCNVB	Ministry of Tourism, Trade, Commerce and Ni-Vanuatu Business
MYSD	Ministry of Youth and Sports Development
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NERM	National Energy Road Map
NSDP	National Sustainable Development Plan
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century
PFTAC	Pacific Technical Assistance Centre
PSC	Public Service Commission
PMO	Prime Minister's Office

RBV	Reserve Bank of Vanuatu
SAC	Statistics Advisory Committee
SAMOA	Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action
SDDS	Specialised Data Dissemination System
SEEA	System of Environment-Economic Accounting
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SNA	System of National Accounts
SPARS	Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Statistics
SPC	South Pacific Community
TRBR	Telecommunications, Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator
TYPSS	Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy
UN	United Nations
UNDP	UN Development Program
UNESCAP	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNICEF	UN International Children's Emergency Fund
URA	Utilities Regulatory Authority
VKS	Vanuatu Cultural Centre
VCSD	Vanuatu Department of Correctional Services
VMGD	Vanuatu Meteorology & Geo-Hazards Department
VNCC	Vanuatu National Cultural Council
VNPF	Vanuatu National Provident Fund
VNSDS	Vanuatu National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
VBoS	Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics
VPMU	Vanuatu Project Management Unit, PMO
VSS	Vanuatu national statistical system
VUV	Vatu (Vanuatu’s currency)

Executive summary

Importance of statistics

Statistics have come to be recognised internationally as a vital component of enabling infrastructure for development. Among other things, statistics provide a basis for informed policy and decision making and help identify best courses of action in addressing complex issues like poverty and are essential for managing for results that focus on development outcomes. They are an important tool to use in managing service delivery, as well as for transparency, accountability, and democracy.

National development in Vanuatu is guided by the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) 2016–2030 and its Monitoring and Evaluation Framework 2017 which incorporates the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Vanuatu Government acknowledges the role of the Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics (VBoS) in NDSP monitoring and evaluation through its responsibilities for collecting data, analysing data, and disseminating this information to stakeholders. Policy Objective SOC 6.9 is to: *Strengthen research, data and statistics for accountability and decision-making.*

Vanuatu National Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2024–2028

The Vanuatu National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (VNSDS) 2024–2028 is a comprehensive framework to facilitate the development of statistics and enhance their utility in Vanuatu. It is an internationally recognised approach that will enable effective coordination of the Vanuatu National Statistical System (VSS) through collaboration of data providers, producers, and users of statistical data. Its aim is to mobilise resources; strengthen the capacity of VSS for producing relevant, timely and usable statistical information based on international standards and best practices; promote use of statistics; and address data limitations. These statistics will assist in the implementation of better government policies for national sustainable development, taking into consideration regional and global commitments.

The VNSDS 2024–2028 incorporates the findings and recommendations of a review of the first VNSDS 2016–2020 conducted by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) in late-2019 at the request of the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu.

Over the review period of the VNSDS, improvements in strengthening the VSS have been observed, though there is a lot of work still to be done. The VNSDS implementation faces several challenges mainly financial, administrative, and bureaucratic constraints, as well as technical limitations. Additional funding sought in the VNSDS was not provided until 2020 when the annual budget increased to VUV 234 million. This funding increase will provide a significant boost to the organisation's capability and enable it to implement some of the statistics developments outlined in the VNSDS 2016–2020.

The VBoS, along with the broader VSS, is facing unprecedented and ever-increasing demand for a wider range of social, economic, demographic, and environmental statistics to monitor progress towards achieving national and international aspirations. It is essential that the Government of Vanuatu is fully committed to supporting the VSS in meeting meet these demands.

Strategic direction

The VNSDS is grounded in the strategic objectives to improve coordination and management of the VSS within a robust institutional environment, and effectively manage resources, to ensure that there is better communication, access and use of an improved quality and range of statistics, to

better meet users' needs. It is guided by the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (Annex 2).

The vision the VSS aspires to achieve the implementation of the VNDS is:

A national statistical system recognised for providing timely and reliable statistics with strong partnership among stakeholders.

The mission statement tells us what we must do to help our vision become a reality. To continually improve, the VSS members need to recognise the barriers to progress and develop strategies to plan well and build a stronger future. The mission of the VSS is:

To coordinate, produce and disseminate quality and timely statistical information for evidence-based decision making for all.

Four strategic objectives that will drive the implementation of the VSS are:

1. Improved coordination and management of the VSS within a robust institutional environment
2. Better communication, access and use of statistics
3. Effectively manage resources and increase statistical capability
4. Improved quality and range of statistics to better meet users' needs.

Important activities include a review of the legislation mandating the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistical information of all agencies in the VSS; establishment and regular meetings of coordinating and advisory committees; website and data portal improvements; capacity development through a well-functioning performance management system and on-going training and mentoring programmes; and improvements to the range and quality of national and provincial statistics.

The strategic objectives, development needs, and activities are outlined in chapters 5 and 6. Table 1 provides a summary of development needs for each of the strategic objectives.

Table 1. VNSDS priorities, lead agencies, and timing, 2024–2028

Development need	Responsibility	Priority	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
1. Improved coordination and management of the VSS							
6.1. Updated statistics legislation	VBoS	1					
6.2. Implement VNSDS governance structure	VBoS lead	1					
6.3. Ensure adequate funding of VBoS	VBoS	1					
2. Better communication, access and use of statistics							
2.1. Improved release practices	VBoS lead	1,2					
2.2. Public awareness programme	VBoS lead	1,2					
3. Effectively manage VBoS resources and increase VSS statistical capability							
3.1. Adopt Generic Activity Model	VBoS	2					
3.2. Implement Statistical capability framework	VBoS lead	1					
3.3. Learning and development (including establishing training centre)	VBoS	1,2					
3.4. Efficient ICT systems	VBoS	1					
3.5. Adopt new technologies and methods	VBoS lead	1,2					
3.6. Adopt Generic Statistics Business Processes	VBoS	3					
3.7. Improved data and information management	VBoS	2					
4. Improved quality and range of statistics to better meet users' needs							

Development need	Responsibility	Priority	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
4.1. Biennial review of user needs	VBoS lead	1,2					
4.2. Improved supply of statistics (see 6. below)	VSS	1					
4.3. Improved supply of small area statistics	VSS	2					
4.4. Quality improvement programme	VBoS lead	2					
Statistics production activities and improvements							
1. National accounts – rebase, quarterlies, province, Tourism satellite account	VBoS	1					
2. Consumers price index – rebase and province	VBoS	1					
3. Develop other price and volume indexes	VBoS	1					
4. Government finance statistics – coverage improvements	DoFT	1,2					
5. VBoS	VBoS						
6. Monetary and finance statistics – coverage improvements	RBV	1,2					
7. Increase use of administrative data	VBoS	1					
8. Formalise arrangements for supply of administrative data through MOUs	VBoS	1					
9. Improve coverage and quality of the VBoS business register	VBoS	1					
10. Improve coverage of business statistics	VBoS	1,2,3					
11. Develop investment/construction statistics	VBoS	2					
12. Improve utilities and infrastructure statistics	TRBR	1,3					
13. Tourism statistics – improve international arrivals statistics, develop accommodation survey	VBoS, MTTCNVB	1,2,3					
14. Improve timeliness of international trade statistics	VBoS RBV	1,2					
15. Improve labour force and employment statistics	VBoS, VNPF	1,2,3					
16. Develop official development assistance statistics	DSPPAC, VBoS	2					
17. Improve coverage and access to environmental statistics	VBoSVBoS leads	2					
18. Improve coverage and access to climate change and disaster risk reduction statistics	VBoS lead	1, 2					
19. Improve land statistics – develop land cover database, Land Account	MLNRGM, VBoS	2,3,					
20. Improve water statistics – collections, Water Account	URA, VBoS	1,2,					
21. Improve energy statistics – Energy Road Map monitoring, Energy Account	DoE, VBoS	1,2					
22. Improve solid waste statistics – collections, Waste Account	VBoS, URA	3					
23. Improve capacity to collect, compile and provide access to agriculture, forestry, livestock, fisheries, and biosecurity statistics	VBoS, MALFFB	1,2					
24. Improve access to NSDP and SDGs indicators	VBoS, PMO	1					
25. Improve access to population and demographic indicators – Census, HIES	VBoS	1					
26. Wellbeing, poverty and living conditions – derived from Census, HIES, as part of the NSDP monitoring and evaluation framework	VBoS	2					
27. Population estimates – improve CVRS, vital statistics, estimates and projections	MoIA, MoH, VBoS	1,2,3					

	Development need	Responsibility	Priority	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
28.	Improve education, numeracy, and literacy statistics	MoET	1,2					
29.	Improve health statistics – MoH facilities, MICS, DHS, NCD Steps Survey, Malaria Cluster Survey	VBoS, MoH	1,2,3					
30.	Gender statistics – produce and publish indicators for monitoring and evaluation	DoWA, VBoS	1					
31.	Children and youth statistics – produce and publish indicators for monitoring and evaluation	MJCS, MYSD, VBoS	1					
32.	Disability statistics – Rapid Assessment Disability Survey	MJCS, VBoS	2					
33.	Human rights statistics – framework and data	VBoS leads	2					
34.	Improve crime and justice statistics	MJCS	1,2					
35.	Culture – Vanuatu Wellbeing statistics	VBoS, VNCC, VKS	1,2					

Implementation, monitoring and evaluation

The VNSDS implementation faces several challenges. First, is the improvement in quality statistics and range to be covered. Secondly, is acquiring the human resources to produce the statistics, and thirdly, the financial, administrative, and bureaucratic constraints, as well as technical limitations. Sustained capacity development and investment toward a modern national statistical system is crucial for the VSS. Investment is needed to improve statistics across the VSS with priority during the 2024-2028 period for:

Statistical outputs:

- developing national accounts and supporting data sources
- improving reporting on climate change and disasters
- developing databases and producing indicators for the NSDP dataset.

Human resources development:

- for statisticians, economists, and managers
- planning and financial management
- project management.

It is estimated that the implementation of the VNSDS over the 2024–2028 period will require Vatu (VUV) xxx million, most of this to improve coverage of the core national dataset through data collections to address data gaps.

The strategic objectives should be reviewed at least once during the NSDS time period to ensure that they continue to be relevant and align with the statistical information needs of government and users and to maximise the benefits available from new methods, technologies and developments in statistical standards.

Vision: A national statistical system recognised for providing timely and reliable statistics with strong partnership among stakeholders.

Mission: To coordinate, produce and disseminate quality and timely statistical information for evidence-based decision making for all.

Objective 1	**Objective 2**	**Objective 3**	**Objective 4**
Improved coordination, and management of the VSS	Better communication, access, and use of statistics	Effectively manage resources and increase statistical capability	Improved quality and range of statistics to better meet users' needs
Outputs	**Outputs**	**Outputs**	**Outputs**
Governance committees	Websites and data portals	Efficient systems	National and provincial statistics
Updated legislation	Publicity & promotion	Learning and development	Quality assessments
Funding	User training	Documentation, standards, protocols	

VSS activities

1. Updated Statistics Act, regular committee meetings, raising financing for VNSDS
2. Website upgrade, National indicator dataset, environment portal, disaster statistics portal, single release calendar, microdata access protocols, training for media and data users
3. Performance management system, individual development plans, IT upgrade, implement GSBPM model, NSS training courses, on-the-job training, and mentoring
4. Regular and timely economic, environment and social statistics, provincial statistics, infographics and maps, quality assessments

We share these values

Professionalism | Integrity | Sustainability | Reliability

Social and cultural values | Partnerships | Client focused

1. Introduction

All governments need good statistics, but in developing countries the need is even more important. Good statistics are a core component of good governance. They also provide a sound basis for the design, management, monitoring, and evaluation of national policy frameworks such as poverty reduction strategies and for monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Citizens also need statistics to hold their governments to account.

Purpose of the VNSDS

The VNSDS is a framework aimed at building statistical capacity and strengthening coordination across the agencies responsible for producing statistics. It specifically seeks to strengthen the capacity of the VBoSVBoS to carry out its mandated function as the leader of the VSS to collect and publish statistical information, and determine statistical standards for the VSS.

The NSDS concept, as articulated by PARIS21, supports the development of national statistical development strategies that are linked to and integrated with national development policies, including sectoral policies. The process for developing an NSDS includes broad consultations with decision makers and data users across government departments and statutory bodies.

VNSDS 2024–2028

The VNSDS 2016–2020 was the first comprehensive statistical strategic plan covering the entire VSS. It was designed to support the Government's commitment to "improving official statistics for policy, planning and decision making as the foundation for social and economic development of the nation" (VBoS, 2015). It was developed based on international best practices and PARIS21 NSDS guidelines.

A review of the VNSDS 2016–2020 was conducted in 2019/20, the results of which were summarised in the report, *Evaluation of the Vanuatu NSDS 2016–2020 Implementation and Assessment of the National Statistical System.* The issues that need to be addressed in the VNSDS are discussed in Chapter 3.

This document, the VNSDS 2024–2028, which updates the earlier VNSDS, is expected to address gaps in data and provide the resources and capacities needed to meet national, regional, and global statistics commitments. It will guide the VSS from 2024–2028 with action plans for implementing the strategies to achieve the goals with implementation monitored and evaluated by the Statistics Advisory Council (SAC).

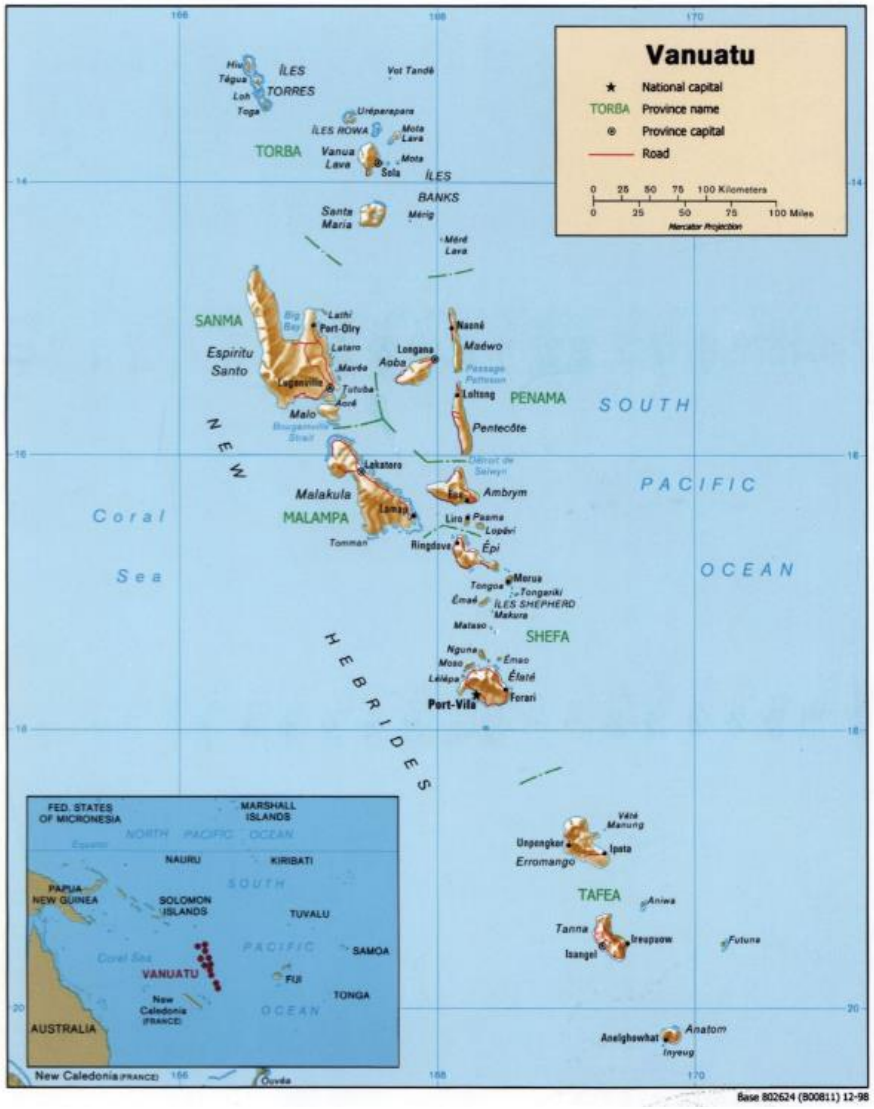
VNSDS 2024–2028 has been anchored to Vanuatu's national development policies, in particular the NSDP, in order to address the statistical requirements implicit in its monitoring and evaluation framework and national minimum indicators data set. It also needs to address Vanuatu's commitment to regional and international policy frameworks – Pacific, SAMOA Pathway and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The updated VNSDS was developed in consultation with stakeholders and the incorporates the results and recommendations of the 2019/20 evaluation and the VBoS's *Three Year Strategic Plan 2019–2021*.

A range of organisations and agencies will contribute to the implementation of the VNSDS. Chief among these is the VBoS with the Chief Statistician playing a major coordinating role in collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to ensure a close link between the VNSDS and NSDP and the Government's commitment to regional and international policy frameworks, as referred to earlier.

Vanuatu in brief

- More than 80 islands stretching for over 800 kilometres in the Melanesian sub-region of the Pacific
- World's most vulnerable country to natural disasters in the form of seismic and volcanic activity, cyclones, drought, flooding, and other extreme weather events
- Gained independence in 1980, now a parliamentary democracy
- The 1980 Constitution provides the basis for legislation in Vanuatu and for the protection of people's fundamental rights
- Divided into six provinces, each hosting a provincial government that delivers decentralised services to its people
- Two main urban centres Port Vila and Luganville
- Total population November 2020: 300,019[(1)]
- Gross domestic product 2021: VUV 107,522m; VUV 352223m per capita[(1)]
- Tourism, construction, and aid inflows are the main drivers for growth. The majority of tourists are day visitors on cruise ships. Outside the urban and peri-urban areas, the economy is based primarily on agriculture, mostly for subsistence but increasingly profit oriented.
- Admitted to the group of Least Developed Countries (LDC) in 1985. Remained part of this group because of its high exposure to environmental risks and natural disasters although its per-capita GDP exceeds the LDC threshold. Graduated out of LDC status in December 2020.
- Annual inflation rate 2023: 11.2%
- Merchandise trade exports (fob) 2022: VUV 5,749mm[(1)]
- Merchandise trade imports (cif) 2022: VUV 30,644m[(1)]
- Visitor arrivals 2022(p): 52,560, of which 42,678 were day visitors on cruise ships. More than 50 percent of air visitors were from Australia[(1)]



Notes.

1. Source VBoS fob – free on board, cif – cost, insurance, and freight

2. National and international policy frameworks that guide Vanuatu's official statistics

Official statistics are an indispensable part of government strategic plans, and regional and international cooperation. Reliable and timely statistics are needed to inform the state, Government's and development partners' policies and strategies and monitor progress towards achieving their desired policy goals. This chapter summarises the national, regional, and international policies and strategic frameworks that shape the statistics needed in Vanuatu.

National policies and strategic framework

The important national policies and strategic frameworks that guide the need for and development of official statistics in Vanuatu are:

- the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) 2016–2030 and its Monitoring and Evaluation Framework
- sector development policies
- the VNSDS 2016–2020 and its successor, the VNSDS 2024–28.

NSDP 2016–2030 and its Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

The NSDP. also known as "Vanuatu 2030" and the "People's Plan", has a vision for "a stable, sustainable and prosperous Vanuatu". It has three main pillars – Society, Environment, and Economy – each having its own but interrelated goals and strategies that are aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[1]. The key policy areas under the pillars are: human resources development, productive sector development, economic growth and poverty reduction, health, environment and climate adaptation and resilience, social inclusion, rural development, governance, and infrastructure.

Contained within the Society pillar is policy objective SOC 6.9 to:

> *Strengthen research, data and statistics for accountability and decision-making.*

The Government recognises the importance of official statistics and the VBoS, especially in its Monitoring and Evaluation Policy. "The Vanuatu National Statistics Office mission is critical to monitoring and evaluation through their responsibilities for collecting data, analysing data, and disseminating this information to stakeholders. VBoS links together data producers and data users so that monitoring and evaluation is informed with the most recent data and information." (GRV, 2018)

The Monitoring and Evaluation Policy stresses the importance of data collection and sharing; who is responsible for using that information; how best to collect information and report on the progress at local and ministry levels, the implementation of the NSDP, development projects and of Council of Ministers' decisions including cross cutting issues such as gender, social inclusion, climate, environment and disaster risks (GRV, 2018).

The first Vanuatu Voluntary National Review of progress on the SDGs highlighted critical areas that are essential for successful implementation of the NSDP and SDGs and statistics was among those areas.

[1] The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets contained in the new framework *Transforming Our World: 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* were formally adopted by the 192 UN member states at a three-day summit held from 25-27 September 2015.

This is a great opportunity to develop the VSS to closely align with and meet data demands. The VBoSVBoS plays a fundamental role in the areas of data collection, coordination, reporting and validation of statistics for the NSDP and SDGs. This includes identifying appropriate data sources and methodologies to produce relevant NSDP and SDGs indicators.

Sector development policies

Vanuatu is policy rich, and there are numerous policies at the sector level which have been incorporated into the VNSDS dealing with the agricultural, fisheries and forestry sector; trade, industry and commerce; education and human resources; health; justice; infrastructure and inter-island transport; gender; youth; disability; renewable energy: and information and communications technology (ICT).

Examples include the *Vanuatu National Energy Road Map, Vanuatu Agriculture Sector Policy, National Oceans Policy, Vanuatu Strategic Tourism Action Plan, National Waste Management Policy*, and the *Vanuatu Climate Change & Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 2016–2030,* for which a separate *Statistical development plan for Vanuatu disaster-related statistics* has been developed.

The Vanuatu NSDS 2016–2020 and its successor, the VNSDS 2024–2028

A national strategy for the development of statistics is a framework, process, and product for statistics development aimed at mainstreaming statistics into the national policy and planning process; producing information responding to the needs of the various users; mainstreaming sectors and other players into the national statistics system; coordinating the entire national statistical system; responding to data challenges; delivering a country-led data revolution; and building statistical capacity across the "the statistical value chain." (PARIS21, 2018)

The VNSDS 2016–2020 was the first comprehensive statistical strategic plan covering the entire VSS. It was designed to support the Government's commitment to "improving official statistics for policy, planning and decision making as the foundation for social and economic development of the nation" VBoS (2015). It was developed based on international best practices and PARIS21 NSDS guidelines.

This document, the VNSDS 2024–2028, which updates the earlier VNSDS, outlines a vision for the VNSDS and sets out objectives and strategies to reach milestones in order to make that vision a reality. It addresses gaps in data and examines the resources and capacities needed to meet national, regional, and global statistical commitments. Based on the needs for statistics discussed in this chapter, the VNSDS update is necessary not only to the Government but to other users as well.

The VNSDS 2024–2028 was developed in consultation with stakeholders and incorporates the results and recommendations of the 2019/20 evaluation of the VNSDS 2016–2020. It is guided by the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (Annex 2).

Regional statistics frameworks and obligations

SAMOA Pathway

The Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway is an international framework that was developed as the outcome of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States held in Apia, Samoa, in September 2014. The conference, with the overarching theme "the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States through genuine and durable partnerships", played a significant role in identifying SIDS priorities that needed to be considered in the formulation of the 2030 Agenda.

Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development

The Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development which was endorsed by Pacific Leaders in Apia, Samoa in September 2017, guides regional responses for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs within the context of national plans and priorities, the SAMOA Pathway and the Framework for Pacific Regionalism. It was prepared by the Pacific SDGs Taskforce through an open, consultative, and country-driven process, and is premised on the underlying principle of leaving no one behind. The Taskforce further developed and agreed to 132 Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators on which Pacific countries are required to report. These indicators can be found on the Pacific Data Hub at https://pacificdata.org/content/17-goals-transform-pacific.

South Pacific Community (SPC)

SPC is an international development organisation which supports development in the Pacific region. Its work focusses on major cross-cutting issues such as climate change, disaster risk management, food security, gender equality, human rights, non-communicable diseases, and youth employment.

The Statistics for Development Division within SPC supports Pacific national statistics producers in the region to strengthen their capacity to provide policymakers and analysts with important demographic, economic and social indicators for planning and decision-making. Their work is guided by the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2011–2020[2]. SPC technical experts support the VBoS and other agencies with survey design, data collection, analysis, and dissemination.

Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2011–2020

The Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy (TYPSS) 2010–2020 is a regional framework to drive improvement in the production and quality of statistics in the Pacific. It seeks to mobilise and make efficient use of resources across the region through priority setting and enhanced coordination. It was adopted by leaders of Pacific Islands countries and territories in 2009. TYPSS is now in its third phase (2018–2020). It was scheduled to be reviewed during 2020 with a view to a new programme being developed to support statistics through to 2030 and the completion of the period of the Sustainable Development Agenda and the SDGs.

International statistical frameworks and obligations

The VSS is part of an international statistical system and its development is influenced by changes at international level as well. Thus, the VSS, including the VBoS, should comply with international guidelines and standards in official statistics. The member states of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations (UN) are expected to align their statistics systems with the following international frameworks:

- The UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics
- IMF Enhanced General Data Dissemination System (e-GGDS)
- International development agreements such as the millennium development goals (MDGs) and their successor, the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Vanuatu Government is a signatory to the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics that were adopted by the Statistical Commission in 1994 and reaffirmed in 2013. The preamble notes the "critical role of high-quality official statistical information in analysis and informed policy decision-

[2] Available at https://sdd.spc.int/ten-year-pacific-statistics-strategy-typss

making in support of sustainable development, peace and security, as well as for mutual knowledge and trade among the States and peoples of an increasingly connected world, demanding openness and transparency". The 10 principles are listed in Annex 2.

The principles are a precondition for producing relevant and impartial statistics and statistics producers should strive for compliance. The Government, being a signatory to the principles, needs to provide support to assist all statistics producers to comply with the principles. The principles should be elaborated in the revised Vanuatu Statistics Act.

Enhanced General Data Dissemination System (e-GDDS)

The Republic of Vanuatu is a member of the IMF General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) of the and the Enhanced General Data Dissemination System (e-GDDS).

The e-GDDS, which succeeded the GDDS, is a structured system with the purpose of improving the quality of economic, financial, and socio-demographic statistics of the IMF member countries. It is the basis for attaining higher statistical standards of data dissemination, the Specialised Data Dissemination System (SDDS) and SDDS+.

At the end of April 2019, Vanuatu published key macroeconomic data in a new National summary data page[3] under e-GDDS to support surveillance and improve data transparency. It is still in the processes of being updated and a more up-to-date e-GDDS situation for Vanuatu is provided on the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu website[4].

The IMF Staff Report for the 2019 Article IV Consultation stressed the importance of the e-GDDS. "This will represent a major structural reform in statistical developments and help create strong synergies between data dissemination and surveillance. … The implementation of the new National summary data page e-GDDS has accelerated the authorities' ongoing efforts to enhance data dissemination via improved data coverage and user accessibility. It has also helped to identify data gaps and thus high priority areas for targeted technical assistance." (IMF, 2019)

The Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight international development goals that were established after the UN Millennium Summit in 2000, following the adoption of the UN Millennium Declaration. All 189 UN member states at the time (there are 192 currently), including Vanuatu and at least 23 international organisations, committed to help achieve the MDGs by 2015. Progress towards the goals was uneven. Some countries achieved many goals, while others did not realise any.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the successor to the MDGs will continue to build on the achievements of the MDGs and complete the goals that were not achieved. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the demand for data to measure progress across all the SDGs has become even greater. To ensure that "no one is left behind", there is increasing demand for disaggregated reliable and timely data across countries.

The SDGs have been localised by integrating them into the Vanuatu NSDP and mainstreaming them into sector policy frameworks. The VBoS is responsible for maintaining a database of the linkages between NSDP and SDG indicators, which allows the indicators to be updated in parallel.

[3] Available at https://dsbb.imf.org/egdds/country/VUT/category
[4] Available at www.rbv.gov.vu/index.php/en/e-gdds-statistics

3. The current state of the Vanuatu Statistics System

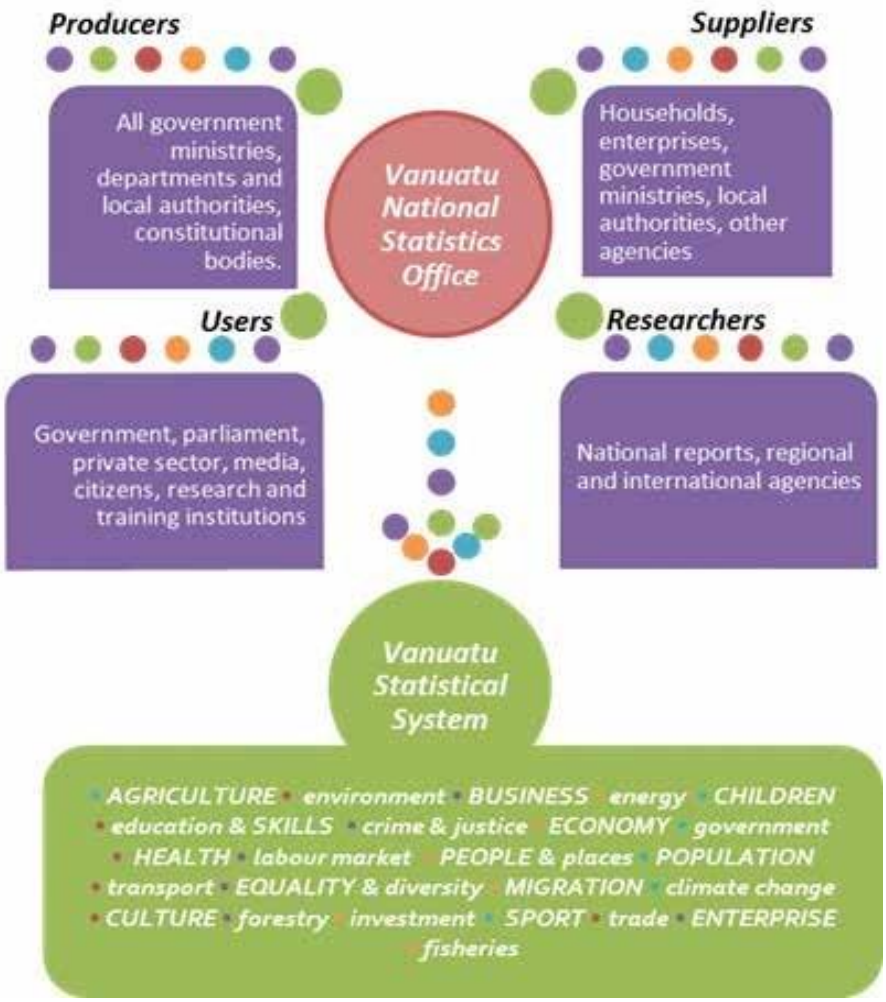
The Vanuatu National Statistical System

The principal aim of the VNSDS is to strengthen and sustain the development of the VSS. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a national statistics system is the ensemble of statistical organisations and units within a country that jointly collect, process, and disseminate official statistics on behalf of national government[5]. Also included, are any statistics produced using any public money for or on behalf of the government.

Vanuatu has a mixed statistical system, with the VBoS having the legal responsibility to coordinate the production and dissemination of official statistics. The VBoS is the major statistics producer, with other ministries producing summary statistics from their administrative systems, the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu (RBV) compiling some economic statistics, and other institutions providing information to the VBoS for further processing into statistical outputs.

Figure 1 summarises the Vanuatu Statistics System.

Figure 1. The Vanuatu Statistics System



[5] OECD Glossary of terms https://data-explorer.oecd.org/

In recent years there has been increased recognition given to statistical activities and the importance of "statistics-informed" policy, which has resulted in increased resources dedicated for quality, timely and reliable statistics throughout the VSS.

Progress on implementing the VNSDS 2016–2020

A review of the VNSDS 2016–2020 was conducted in 2019/20, the results of which were summarised in the report, *Evaluation of the Vanuatu NSDS 2016–2020 Implementation and Assessment of the National Statistical System.* The rest of this chapter summarises the findings of the evaluation.

The NDSD evaluation noted that over the 2016–19 period of the VNSDS, there was moderate progress in achieving the VNSDS objectives. It concluded that the implementation faces several challenges mainly financial, administrative, and bureaucratic constraints, as well as technical limitations including:

- The VNSDS budget for the first three years of implementation 2016–18 was not approved by the Government, partly due to financial, human, and IT constraints after Tropical Cyclone Pam.
- The political support was not sufficient. Although the Implementation plan and budget was submitted to the Council of ministers, it was not approved.
- There was no mechanism in place to implement the current Statistics Act.
- There was very little improvement in the level of resources and technical expertise at the VBoS, line ministries and other agencies involved in production of statistics
- The vision and content of VNSDS were not well advocated and publicised with the relevant line ministries and agencies.
- There is an apparent lack of ownership over the VNSDS, evidenced during the review consultations. The assessment survey found that almost 60 percent of respondents indicated that their organisations did not conduct any VNSDS activities during the review period.

On the positive side, some improvements in strengthening the VSS were observed, though there is a lot of work to be done, in the following areas:

- There were improvements in capacity and coordination within the VSS. The VNSDS has moved Vanuatu to further integrate and strengthen the VSS.
- Some steps have been taken toward standardisation using standard classifications and harmonisation of statistical methodology and definitions across the VSS.
- Some memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with data producers have been established to enhance cooperation between the VBoS and signed agencies as well as to fulfil statistical requirement of national, regional, and global communities.
- Data availability and quality has improved for some statistics, including education statistics, the e-GDDS and the development of the national dataset.

Most notably, there was a large increase in the VBoS's budget from VUV 97 million in 2019 to VUV 234 million in 2020, to fund additional staff required under the new structure for improvements in statistical leadership and coordination, economic and social statistics developments, and to conduct the census and social surveys[6]. This funding increase will provide a significant boost to the organisation's capability and enable it to fill some of its vacancies. International organisations and

[6] It should be noted that the VBoS budget tends to fluctuate year-to-year due to the irregular timing of large-scale surveys such as the Population Census and the Agriculture Census.

development partners have also provided financial and in-kind support to supplement the government budget. In 2019-2021, support was received from the following donors:

- The UN Development Program (UNDP) on behalf of the India-UNDP Fund: VUV 60m for the 2019/20 NSDP Baseline Survey
- European Union:
    - VUV 50m for 2020 Census
    - VUV 200m for Agriculture Census
- UN Population Fund (UNFPA) (US$238,000), Christensen Fund (US$100,000), UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) (US$70,000): to support survey and policy programmes, statistics legislation review, and training
- In-kind technical assistance from SPC, PARIS21, Pacific Technical Assistance Center (PFTAC), Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Australian Government, ADB, and World Bank.

Statistical legal settings in Vanuatu

Statistics Act of the Republic of Vanuatu

The UN notes that strong statistical legislation is a fundamental precondition for effective functioning and empowering a national statistical system so that its independence, integrity and accountability is guaranteed, and statistical quality and data security are assured (UN, 2018).

The main legal act regulating statistics in the Republic of Vanuatu is the Statistics Act of 1974 and its subsequent amendments.

The SA identifies the VBoS as the official statistical office of the Government and gives the Chief Statisticianthe authority to carry out the functions, powers and duties as specified in the Statistics Act. This includes the determination of standards and form of presentation of results to be adopted in respect of statistical collections; the authority to require other statistics producers to modify procedures, amend forms and grant access to records or documents to facilitate the collection of statistics; and the issue of statistical publications. The Act also guarantees confidentiality of individuals' data.

The Statistic Act also requires the establishment of a Statistics Advisory Council (SAC) which has a mandate to advise the Minister responsible for statistics and the (Government) Statistician on:

a) the annual and long-term work programme of the office
b) the improvement, extension, and co-ordination of statistical services in Vanuatu, and
c) matters relating generally to statistical services.

Shortcomings of the Statistics Act

The 2019/20 VNSDS assessment noted the following restrictions in addressing institutional needs to support and modernise official statistics in Vanuatu.

- Although there is a schedule of statistics collections for a range of industrial activities and social, economic, and demographic subjects, there is no clarity of definition of "official statistics".
- There is no clear definition of the VSS, its boundaries, roles, and responsibilities of various players in the VSS. The Statistics Act only spells out the powers and functions of Government Statistician, but it is inadequate for an effective functioning of the system. This makes the coordination of the entire VSS challenging and a significant barrier to implementation of common statistical standards and practices.

- The Statistics Act does not refer to the UN Principles and does not define key principles of official statistics in Vanuatu, including the principle of professional independence, which is free from political and other external interferences in producing and dissemination of official statistics.
- The Statistics Act does not specify procedures for the appointment/dismissal of the Government Statistician. The appointment of the Chief Statisticianshould be non-political and based on professional competence only. The Chief Statisticianshould be at the most senior level in the government administration to exercises his/her coordination role of the VSS and represent the system at national and international levels.
- The VSS does not have a consolidated confidentiality policy explaining how it guarantees the confidentiality of collected data. Statistical confidentiality should be respected and adhered by all producers at all stages of production and dissemination of official statistics.
- There is a strong need to strengthen the position of the VBoSVBoS with respect to the design and development of administrative data systems and access to administrative data. Improved effectiveness of administrative data will reduce duplication of efforts and respondent burden.
- There is no provision that would allow the VBoSVBoS to provide access to microdata, under appropriate safeguards, for statistics and approved research purposes.
- The Statistics Act should include legal provisions around the use of ICT, in particular mobile phones, satellite images and other innovative sources of data.
- The preparation of multi-year and annual statistical programmes should be included.

Advisory committees

SAC members are appointed by the Minister for a three year term, with the Statistics Act 2022 amendment specifying that the committee comprise persons from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Community Services, Ministry of Trade and Business Development, and the Office of the Prime Minister. It further includes representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, the National Council of Chiefs, and the National Tourism Council. The Minister can, at his or her discretion, appoint researchers to assist the SAC with its mandate. The SAC is required to meet at least once a year with a quorum of the Chairperson and four other members.

The SAC has not been operating until recently.VBoS is proposing to fill three vacant positions to support the coordination of the VSS. These staff will be instrumental in establishing regular SAC and Sector Committee meetings, recording minutes, and arranging for the publication of minutes on the VBoSVBoS website.

There is no formal body to oversee the VSS statistical work to ensure that the statistical activities are coordinated and based on international standards and best practices. There is a need to establish an interdepartmental Steering Committee that includes representatives from key statistics producing agencies to supervise the statistical work of the country.

2021 Bill for the Statistics Act

The redrafted Statistics Act aims to address these shortcomings and strengthen the role of the VBoS

The VBoShave extended functions, including developing and monitoring the VNSDS. It gives the Chief Statistician the power to act independently and be impartial and objective in the developing, producing and distributing of statistics.

A smaller Statistics Advisory Council is proposed, but with broader sectoral representation, including representatives of non-government organisations (NGOs), academia, the media.

The Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics

VBoS's role in the VSS

The VBoS is the main provider of official statistics in Vanuatu. Its core functions are development and production of official statistics including collection, processing, analysing and dissemination of essential demographic, economic, social, and environmental statistics. These are mainly in the form of surveys and censuses. The VBoS has also a key role in providing statistical infrastructure in the form of sampling frames, statistical techniques, and standards. One of the fundamental responsibilities of the VBoS is the promotion of common practices, and standardisation and harmonisation of official statistics across the VSS.

The VBoS is an independent department within the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) with the Chief Statisticianreporting directly to the Minister of Finance. The central office of the VBoS is in Port Vila.

VBoS structure

The Vanuatu Public Service Commission (PSC) approved a new structure for the VBoS in December 2018 (shown in Annex 3). The new organisational structure is composed of five section areas aligned with three pillars of the NSDP:

- Economics
- Social and Environment
- Statistical Leadership and Coordination
- Data Collection and Management
- Administration.

The VBoS is in the process of operationalising the new structure which increases the number of positions from 27 to 52 in three phases, subject to the availability of financial resources. The new organisational structure continues the divisional structure (silo) approach, heavily relying on individual statistical domains (stovepipe approach). The NSDS evaluation recommended that VBoS should move towards an integrated production approach, such as the UNECE General Statistical Business Process Model (GSBPM).

Human resources, training, capacity building and career pathways

The NSDS evaluation found that the VBoS has a very small number of dedicated staff with good qualifications in statistics and other disciplines. It should regularly assess skills requirements to identify what additional skills are required. The VBoSVBoS does not have a comprehensive human resource policy covering continuous capacity building and career development programme for its staff. Nor does it have a staff mobility policy that would enhance skills and improve horizontal and vertical internal communications.

There is no formal training programme or training centre for VBoS staff and other VSS partners. There is a need for ongoing capacity development in a variety of statistical, ICT, social-media communication, and managerial issues.

The VBoS does not have formal knowledge management systems to ensure business continuity. Most of the knowledge and information is kept "in the heads" of staff, though there is some

informal on the job training. VBoS needs to have an effective business continuity management/plan to ensure stability and sustainability of its business processes.

ICT and data management

The VBoS uses the Government ICT network which stores information safely and securely. There are occasional times during system maintenance when VBoS is unable to update its website and release statistics on its pre-arranged schedule.

Vanuatu has embraced the use of new technology such as computer-assisted personal interview (CAPI) using mobile phones and tablets and free web-based software for face-to-face interviews and data collection. The VBoS has been a leader in the region, as evidenced by being the first country to conduct a census using CAPI, as well as the first country to both trial and conduct a 12-month modular expanded HIES using CAPI. The office is committed to using "R" statistical analysis software and has recently begun trialling innovative solutions to improve the efficiency of analysis and timeliness of reporting using Reproducible Analytical Pipelines (RAP). VBoS is looking towards developing a telephone administered labour force survey.

There is currently no central data repository for environment and spatial data (digital maps). Geographic information systems (GIS) skills are low across the VSS. The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) provided GIS training to environment officers in 2017 and February 2020. SPC supports the VBoS with GIS and GPS technology and hosts the presentation of Vanuatu census and other data in its PopGIS3 mapping tool[7].

Financial resources

Since the adoption of VNSDS 2016–20, there has been a significant increase in financial resources for the VBoS, with the budget more than doubling since 2014. VBoS receives financial and technical support from development partners to supplement the government budget as well as in-kind support (not estimated for) from regional agencies and other partners for ongoing technical support, training, and capacity building.

Despite the increase in funding, VBoS still faces a number of challenges including inadequate technical and analytical experience and capacity to train up new staff, shortage of experienced staff, difficulties attracting new staff to fill the new positions, and inadequate IT infrastructure.

International cooperation

International cooperation has made a significant contribution towards developing statistical capacity and improving official statistics. The VBoS actively collaborates with international partners on several cooperation projects. International partners include the UN, OECD, IMF, World Bank, and other agencies; development partners especially the Australian and New Zealand Governments; and other national statistical offices, including the ABS and Statistics NZ.

The main forms of international cooperation are technical assistance and financial support, training VBoS staff and other producers of official statistics, and provision of data to international organisations. Staff across the VSS participate in international meetings and provide data to international organisations.

[7] Available at http://vanuatu.popgis.spc.int/#c=home

Given the importance of external assistance to the development of the VSS, it is important to recognise that inflow of these resources may be reduced now that Vanuatu has been upgraded to Developing country status. The international Covid-19 pandemic is also producing its own challenges since the international border closed with international technical advisors unable to enter the country and Vanuatu statisticians unable to travel to attend international events and training.

Statistics system at province and lower geographic levels

Vanuatu administratively is organised into six provinces, 18 main islands and 66 districts. There are statistical offices in five provinces (Sanma, Malampa, Tafea, Penama, and Torba) with Shefa province served by the main office in Port Vila. Each provincial office has only a single employee. The provincial offices are under-resourced and face challenges in collecting data and providing services outside the provincial centre.

The VBoS needs to strengthen its partnerships with other institutions with greater capacity at the local community. It must network with local governor offices and chiefs at community level to understand and address their capacity building needs both as data providers and users. The churches are also active participants in community governance, providing a range of services, particularly for women, youth and the vulnerable. (PARIS21, 2020).

Data availability, access, and dissemination

The VBoS website, the main channel for dissemination of VBoS statistical data and information is not currently being updated on a regular and timely basis. Current practice is to disseminate releases by email to a distribution list, through the VBoS's Facebook page, and update the website when it is available.

VBoS works to an internal publication schedule. The publication schedule needs to be published on the VBoS website at least six months in advance and should be expanded to include other VSS outputs. The VBoS draft dissemination strategy will be amended and finalised once the new Statistics Act is enacted.

VBoS does not have a micro-data access policy in place, although some anonymised micro datasets are shared with institutions prior to release such as SPC, with strict conditions. The Statistics Act will be amended to allow sharing of microdata.

Other VSS partners

Other statistics producers, besides the VBoS, include:

- Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Bio-Security (MALFFB)
- Ministry of Climate Change and Adaption (MCCA), including Department of Energy (DoE)
- Department of Customs and Inland Revenue (DCIR)
- Ministry of Education and Training (MoET)
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs & External Trade (MFAET)
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM)
- Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities (MIPU)
- Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA), including Department of Labour and Employment Services (DoLES, and Vanuatu Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Taskforce (VCRaVST
- Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MJCS), including Department of Women's Affairs (MoWA)
- Ministry of Health (MoH)

- Ministry of Land and Natural Resources, Geology and Mines (MLNRGM)
- Ministry of Tourism, Trade, Commerce & Ni-Vanuatu Business (MTTCNVB)
- Ministry of Youth and Sports Development (MYSD)
- Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO)
- Prime Minister's Office
- Reserve Bank of Vanuatu (RBV).

These agencies are responsible for producing statistics to monitor and evaluate their respective activities and to meet international statistics obligations. For example, the RBV produces money and finance statistics and balance of payments statistics according to UN's statistical frameworks.

Some agencies also provide data to VBoS for further processing and publication. DCIR allows VBoS access to customs entries, passenger arrival and departure information, and tax data, under strict conditions. This exchange of data is facilitated through the Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project[8]. Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) formalise relationships between the VBoS and data supplying agencies to ensure regular supply of data for use in official statistics.

It is VBoS's role to support the above agencies by providing advice on classifications, standards, and survey compilation, and host the publication of official statistics on the VBoS website.

The NSDS evaluation team surveyed other producers of official statistics and found that:

- the majority (71 percent) were aware about the existence of legal acts and regulations on collection, processing and dissemination of data and statistics
- participating agencies generate a lot of data, but these data are mostly used for internal administrative and planning purposes
- most respondents did not think they have the authority to disseminate statistical information without interference from others, including government or ministerial approval
- data collected by other producers are often designed to meet their specific needs but not necessarily compliant with international statistical standards so are not compatible with other data
- there are limited human resources, inadequate ICT infrastructure and inadequate financial resources to produce statistics and build statistical capacity. This negatively affects the quality and timeliness of statistical operations.
- very few staff have received formal training in statistics
- only three agencies that responded to the survey have a dedicated budget for producing statistics
- some organisations have received financial and technical assistance in statistics from international organisations in the past five years
- almost all respondents indicated that they use only MS Excel for statistical production. DCIR uses ASYCUDA customs management system software in production of foreign trade statistics. MoET, in addition to MS Excel, uses Education Management software. Several participants complained that IT infrastructure in their offices is inadequate to perform required statistical tasks.
- around 60 percent of the organisations have standards in place to ensure confidentiality of statistical information.

[8] The Electronic Single Window System was first launched in 2020 to enable businesses to submit and pay for import and export certificates, licenses and permits online. It is being expanded to include a range of other services and databases, including passenger arrivals and departures. Go to https://singlewindow.gov.vu/ for more information.

- only two organisations (MoH and MFEM) have a preannounced statistical release calendar, although the MFEM schedule is only for internal use.

Consultation, cooperation, and coordination

Although coordination mechanisms for preparing and implementing the VNSDS have been established, overall, the coordination among data producing agencies is weak.

There are no systematic mechanisms for user-producer dialogue. The VBoS does not have systems in place to consult users, monitor the relevance and usability of existing statistics in addressing their needs, as well as considering emerging needs and priorities. The coordination of statistical activities mainly goes through ad-hoc consultations on annual and multi-annual strategic plans, assessing requirements survey by survey, and unsolicited feedback from statistical releases.

There are no established regular meetings among producers on sharing their programmes and jointly identifying gaps in terms of data availability and quality.

Bi-lateral MOUs have been signed with MoH, MoET, DCIR, and the Telecommunications Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator (TRBR) to share data and ensure relevant statistics are published officially.

Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) analysis of the VSS

Table 2 outlines a summary of the key issues, strengths and weaknesses that are currently facing the VSS, as well as opportunities which may influence efforts to address these weaknesses. There is also a list of identified threats that could be obstacles for developing a trusted and unified national statistical system in Vanuatu. These issues were identified during a 2019 workshop in September 2019 in Iririki, Port Vila, in consultations with stakeholders and VBoS staff, and though reviewing the SWOT identified in 2013.

Table 2. SWOT analysis of VSS

Strengths	Opportunities
• Legal provisions on data collection mandate • Government support • Determined leadership of VBoS to promote unified official statistics • Availability of statistical units in provinces • Capable staff at the central office of VBoS to provide technical backstopping to other producers of official statistics • Good working collaboration and networking • National summary data page (e-GDDS) • Strong support from international organisations and development partners.	• Increased demand for more and better statistics for the NSDP and the SDGs • Increased international technical and financial support for statistics • Availability of sub-regional, regional, and international frameworks to enhance collaboration • ICT advancement timely, accurate, and cost-effective data collection, analysis, and dissemination • Establishment of E-government system for information sharing • 30 specialized institutions which could be consulted to support advanced data analysis and interpretation (UNSD, WB, IMF, UNESCAP, ADB, SPC, PFTAC, PARIS21 and donor countries) • Strengthen analytical and reporting writing capacity/communication skills • Expand releases and use all types of media.
Weaknesses	**Threats**
• No clear definition of the VSS • Weak co-ordination among various stakeholders and exchange of information • Lack of inter-links and co-ordination between various databases • Lack of technical and analytical expertise • Lack of an institutional framework for regular quality review, especially for administrative records • No common data release calendars by the VBoS, line ministries and government agencies • Low statistical literacy among users • Lack of policy for information security • Inadequately trained staff in line ministries, government departments/agencies • Inadequate Government funding to VSS • Not sufficient advocacy and publicity about statistical products and services leading to underutilized data • No provision for a regular assessment of user needs.	• Low appreciation of the importance of statistics in the process of policy- and decision-making • Competition from third party statistics producers • Competition for resources with other national priorities • Inconsistent and conflicting statistical data from different producers both within and outside the VSS still exist • Increased availability of technological innovations • Lack of public awareness about the importance of the quality of statistics and indicators and their utilization • Failure to meet stakeholders' expectations.

4. Vanuatu NSDS strategic framework

The vision for the VSS

A national statistical system recognised for providing timely and reliable statistics with strong partnership among stakeholders

The vision sets out the aspiration of the VSS to build partnerships and increase cooperation and coordination in the national statistical service. Achieving this vision will require commitment and support from Vanuatu statistics producers, the Vanuatu Government, and development partners, to implement a statistics programme that will meet the needs of users.

The mission of the VSS

To coordinate, produce and disseminate quality and timely statistical information for evidence-based decision making for all

The mission is the core business of the VSS. The mission statement tells us what we must do to help our vision become a reality. The actions needed are laid out in strategic objectives below.

Strategic objectives

These four strategic objectives embrace the central thrusts and performance areas that the VSS will pursue to achieve its vision and mission.

Improved coordination and management of the VSS within a robust institutional environment	Sound policy and legislative framework for the VSS. Strengthen partnerships, improve collaboration, coordination, consultation between clients, stakeholders, and donors. Adequate funding for VBoS to enable it to manage the VSS.
Better communication, access, and use of statistics	Improved general/public awareness of the value and use of statistics for evidence-based decision making. Improved supply of statistics through a variety of media and formats including the VBoS website. Advocacy and training to support and educate policy and decisionmakers about the use of statistics.
Effectively manage VBoS resources and increase VSS statistical capability	Ensure adequate and sustainable human, financial and institutional (budget, IT, physical environment) resources are in place to deliver quality statistical products and services.
Improved quality and range of statistics to better meet users' needs	Deliver a range of good quality, timely statistics to address national information and policy demands. Continuous data quality improvements using international best practice and standards.

VSS producers share these values

These values reflect our guiding principles and behaviours.

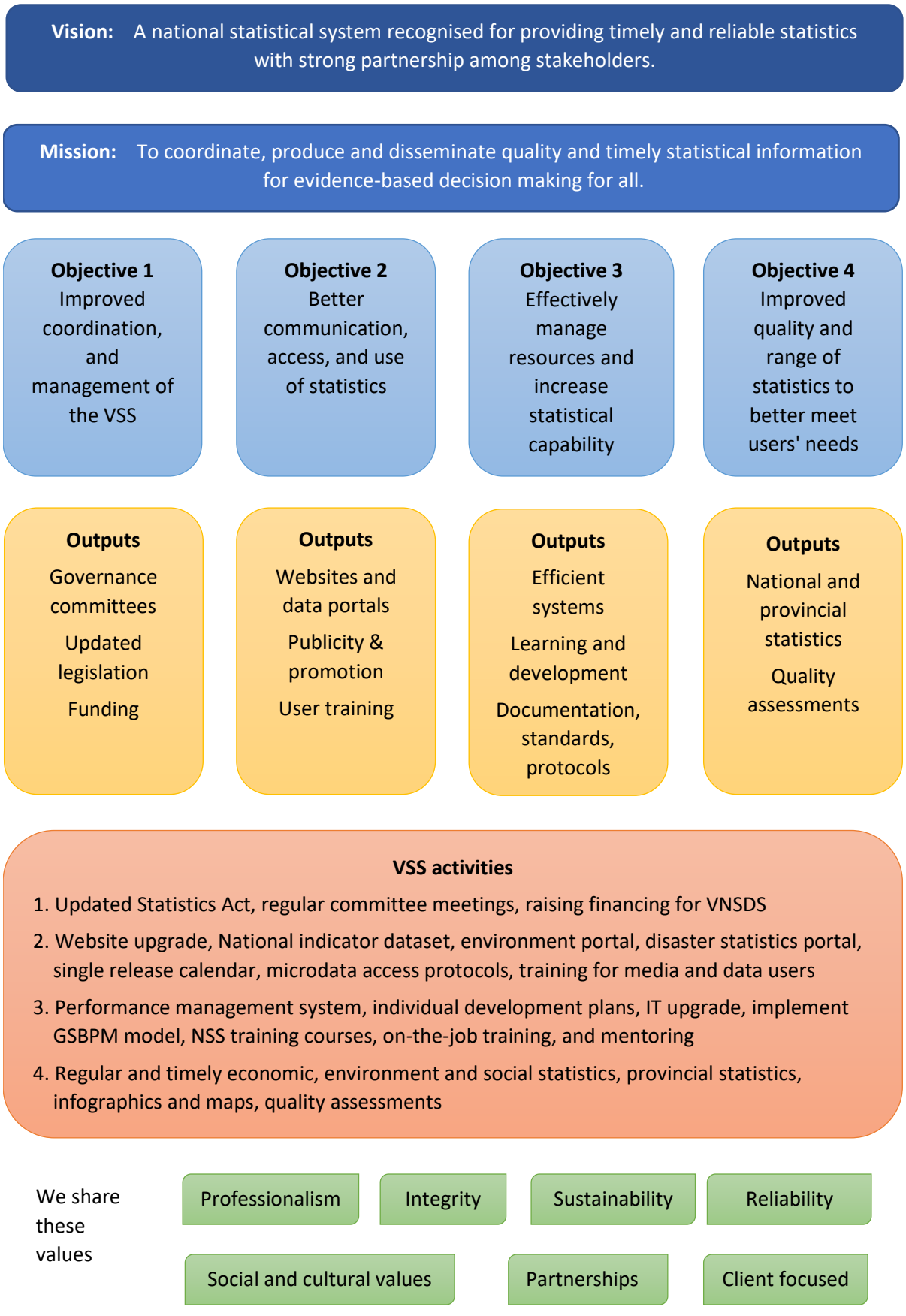
Professionalism	We focus on producing relevant, accurate and timely data according to internationally acceptable and professional standards.
Integrity	Vanuatu's official statistics are trusted. We are unbiased, transparent, and accountable. We maintain our statistical independence and preserve respondent confidentiality.
Sustainability	We maintain our data and knowledge management systems and support our people to be sustainable and responsive for the long term.
Reliability	We strive to produce consistent, reliable, and accurate statistics for all We collect, process, and disseminate statistics in a timely manner.
Social and cultural values	We cherish and uphold cultural diversity and values in all our activities.
Partnerships	We maintain effective working relationships with all our stakeholders and advocate and educate about the use of statistics for sound decision making.
Client focused	We maintain responsive and open communication and share our information with partners and stakeholders.

VSS framework

Figure 2 summarises the VSS framework. The framework highlights the relationships between the different elements of the VNSDS – the vision, mission, outputs and activities, and the guiding principles and behaviours of the VSS's people.

Chapters 5 and 6 summarise the outputs and activities required to implement the VNSDS.

Figure 2. Vanuatu National Statistical System framework



5. Strategic objectives and expected results:

What we intend to do to improve the VSS

1. Improved coordination and management of the VSS within a robust institutional environment

Investing in the VSS must become a priority for the Vanuatu Government. Support is required at the highest level to promote the cause of "data for development" and ensure data are produced to high-quality standards, while protecting privacy and confidentiality.

As the landscape of information producers is rapidly changing, statistical offices need up-to-date legislation to support modernisation of official statistics and remove unnecessary barriers to releasing the full value of statistics. The upcoming revision to the Vanuatu Statistics Act aims to address Vanuatu information and policy needs and ensure that agencies have the authority to collect and disseminate statistical information. Legislation relating to other ministries should also be reviewed and updated to remove any barriers to access, and allow regular, timely, and unbiased publication of summary statistics from administrative databases.

In their mandated role as the official statistical office of the Government, the VBoS will ensure that statistics producers are working together effectively to provide the statistics that users need. The SAC and other sector working groups and technical committees should be established and meeting regularly. The proposed recruitment of three officers to support VSS coordination will ensure that the advisory groups meet at least every six months.

SAC members must promote the VNSDS to ensure high-level political ownership and support collaboration between VBoS, data suppliers and producers. The SAC will advise the Minister and the Chief Statisticianon the annual and long-term work programme for the VBoS.

A committee comprising representatives from international donor agencies should be established. Regular, at least annual, meetings will result in donors' improved awareness of statistical activities and better coordination and prioritisation of donor-funding of surveys and technical assistance. Any ad-hoc statistical activities funded by external agencies will need to be endorsed by the SAC before they can be incorporated into the annual statistical work programme.

Adequate funding for national statistics is essential for building sustainable statistical capacity. Although the financing of Vanuatu's official statistics has improved in recent years, the statistical infrastructure requires additional significant investment to keep up with IT developments and users' growing requirements. Any increase in funding received through the VNSDS needs to be accompanied by a sustained programme of learning and development.

The VBoS Statistical Leadership and Coordination Division will lead the activities to improve coordination and management of the VSS. Action and activities required to meet development needs are shown in table 3.

Table 3. Actions and activities required to improve coordination and management of the VSS

Development need	Actions and activities required	Priority	Timing
1.1. A sound policy and legislative framework that empowers the VSS to deliver the required changes	1.1.1. Review and update the Statistics Act to address Vanuatu information and policy needs and ensure that agencies have the authority to collect and disseminate statistical information	2	
	1.1.2. Publish the Statistics Act on the VBoS website	1	
1.2. Strengthen partnerships, improve collaboration, coordination, consultation between clients, stakeholders, and donors	1.2.1. Establish the SAC according to provisions in the revised Statistics Act and ensure that it meets at least every 6 months	1	
	1.2.2. Establish VSS Steering Committee to oversee the statistical work programme, methodologies, and quality improvements	1	
	1.2.3. Establish sector technical working groups (economic, society, environment) to advise on statistical needs and support the coordination and supply of data	2	
	1.2.4. VSS provide secretariat to support the SAC and other committees	1	ongoing
	1.2.5. Continue to establish MOUs with key data suppliers	2	ongoing
	1.2.6. Initiate discussions for a development partner (donor) group for official statistics	2	
1.3. Ensure that the VBoS is funded adequately to enable it to lead and coordinate the VSS	1.3.1. VBoS receives adequate funding so it can deliver the statistical work programme (at national and province level) and build staff capacity throughout the VSS	1	ongoing

2. Better communication, access and use of statistics

Official statistics should be disseminated to the widest possible audience to benefit society, enhance trust in official statistics, and to achieve maximum benefits from the investment made in collecting and compiling the data in the first instance. Making data accessible and relevant is key to improving and promoting their use across target groups.

The VBoS website is the main channel for disseminating VBoS's official statistics. The content needs to be expanded to include all official statistics for Vanuatu including the NSDP national dataset, portals for environment statistics and disaster-related statistics, and/or links to other agencies' datasets. To improve transparency, the website should have a release calendar for all scheduled statistics outputs, published at least six months in advance. Statistics outputs should include relevant metadata. To improve the utility of statistics, data should be published in MS-Excel format. Other publications such as methodologies, research papers, and minutes from various committee meetings should also be available.

To satisfy user's increasing demands for access to microdata and to maximise utility of data already collected, the VBoS will develop a programme to promote and facilitate safe access to microdata.

To evaluate use of statistics and improvements in VBoS could use web traffic analytics to monitor website traffic and conduct regular user satisfaction surveys. This could include a "pop-up" on the

website to ask users if they found what they were looking for or a simple questionnaire for users who visit the VBoS requesting information.

Statistical literacy is a term used to describe the ability of an individual or a group to understand and comprehend statistics. Initiatives need to be put into practice to increase statistical literacy in all fields of society: for scholars and students, for journalists, for decision makers in politics and businesses, for business respondents, and the general public. Awareness of the value and use of statistics can be improved though building good relations with local media and providing regular briefings and workshops for the media and users. The VBoS Facebook is well used and has more than 6,300 followers. A bi-annual Statistics Day is a good way to build staff morale and knowledge as well as generate interest with users, families, and the public.

The VBoS Statistical Leadership and Coordination Division will lead the activities to improve communication, access and use of statistics. Action and activities required to meet development needs are shown in table 4.

Table 4. Actions and activities required to improve communication, access, and use of statistics

Development need	Actions and activities required	Priority	Timing
2.1. Improve the supply of statistics through a variety of media and formats, including the VBoS website	2.1.1. Centralise access to national statistics, including the core national dataset and associated documentation, on the VBoS website	1	
	2.1.2. Redesign the VBoS website to improve layout, navigation and usability and extend the coverage of its web databases, use more data visualization tools and infographics	1	
	2.1.3. Publish statistics in MS-Excel spreadsheets	1	
	2.1.4. Publish VBoS and VSS policy documents, methodologies and metadata, meeting minutes, data requests and user feedback	2	ongoing
	2.1.5. Maintain and publish a single release calendar for the VSS on the VBoS website	2	
	2.1.6. VBoS in consultation with users, develop a programme to promote and facilitate safe access to microdata	3	
	2.1.7. VBoS to monitor the use of official statistics through web traffic analytics and regular user satisfaction surveys	2	
2.2. Improved general/public awareness of the value and use of statistics for evidence-based decision making	2.2.1. Develop a statistical literacy plan and programme of activities for statistics users, business and household respondents, teachers, and students	2	
	2.2.2. Improve media relations, improve statistical capability of media through pre-release sessions, release briefings about interpretation and presentation of statistical release	1	ongoing
	2.2.3. Use social media to promote and disseminate statistics	1	ongoing
	2.2.4. VBoS to coordinate two-yearly celebration of Statistics Day	2	

	2.2.5. VBoS to develop training programme for users and suppliers of statistics. This may include regular media briefings, presentations, and workshops.	2	

3. Effectively manage resources and increase statistical capability

VBoS resources need to be managed wisely and effectively in order to strengthen VBoS's technical and statistical capacity to manage and implement the national statistics dataset. The VBoS will work towards adopting the principles and practices advocated in the UNECE's Generic Activity Model for Statistical Organisations (GAMSO). GAMSO describes and defines the activities that take place within a typical organisation that produces official statistics. It covers four activity areas: strategy and leadership, capacity development and corporate support, as well as statistics production (covered in the GSBPM explained below).

VBoS needs to develop ways to increase retention of skilled statisticians through increased remuneration and identification of career pathways and provide regular feedback and assessments. A Statistical Capability Framework will be developed to assist in developing VBoS and VSS staff capabilities through a programme of mentoring, coaching and formal training. A regular training programme for building statistical literacy, ICT and managerial skills will be established. The programme will utilise general training provided by PSC and local educational organisations and technical training provided by international experts, supplemented by training courses developed by VBoS statisticians.

The Paris21 Guidelines for Developing Statistical Capacity 4.0 provide useful guidance to support the VBoS and the VSS to improve statistical and organisational capacity.

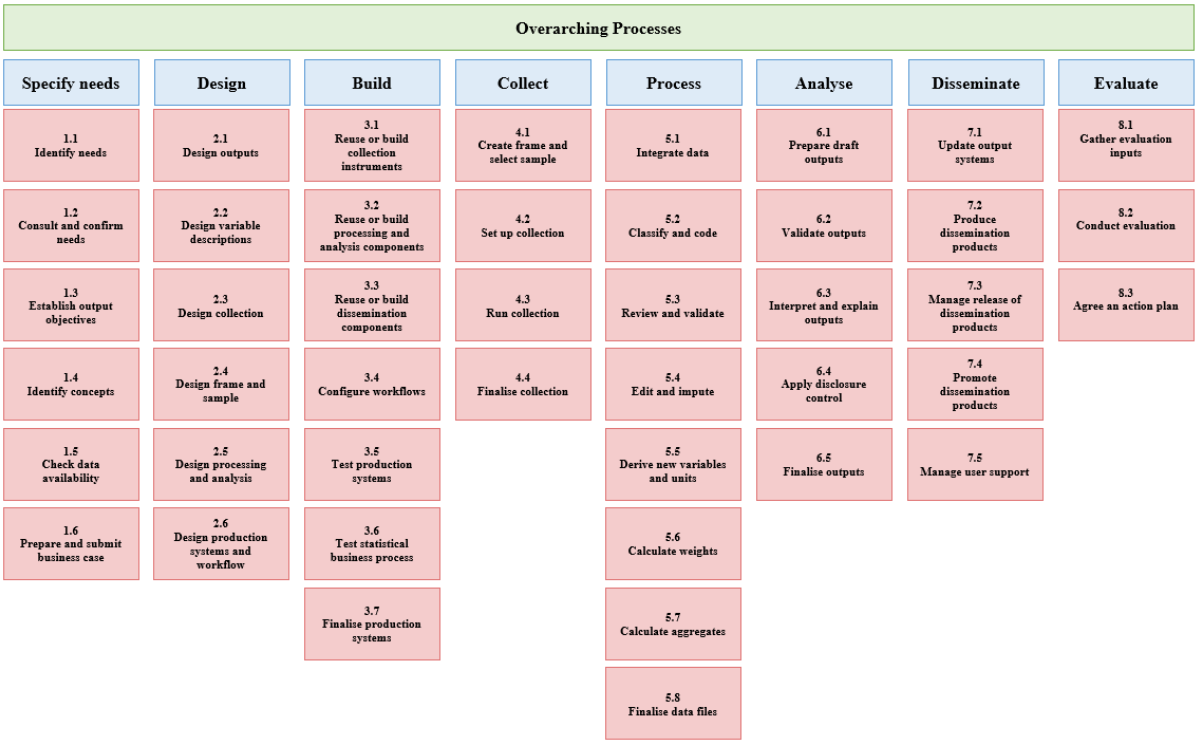
ICT systems need to be upgraded to allow better integration and standardisation of statistical processes and data storage, and improved security of personal data. To seize the opportunities presented by the data revolution, the VSS needs to invest in new technologies and production processes. This includes expanding the use of CAPI to improve the efficiency and accuracy of census and survey data collection. VSS partners should explore opportunities to exploit big data[9]. In Vanuatu, this may involve combining microdata from different sources, for example, matching Census records with education or health data, to gain new insights into the population.

VBoS should work towards implementing the UN's GSBPM. The GSBPM is a flexible tool that describes and defines the set of business processes needed to produce official statistics. The GSBPM models the statistical production process and identifies the activities undertaken by producers of official statistics that result in information outputs. It is designed to be independent of the data source, so it can be used for the description and quality assessment of processes based on surveys, censuses, administrative records, and other non-statistical or mixed sources.

Figure 3 illustrates the GSBPM processes.

[9] Big data is a field that treats ways to analyse, systematically extract information from, or otherwise deal with data sets that are too large or complex to be dealt with by traditional data-processing application software. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_data#Applications)

Figure 3. Levels 1 and 2 of the Generic Statistical Business Process Model



Source: UNECE Secretariat: Generic Statistical Business Process Model, Version 5.1

To advance sound data and information management, VBoS should review, update, or establish protocols for collection, classification, quality assurance, sharing and dissemination of statistics. Statistics NZ's *Principles and Protocols for Producers of Tier 1 Statistics*[10] provides useful guidance. The GSBPM and Data Documentation Initiative[11] tools will also help to support sound data and information management.

A new division will be established within VBoS to implement new ways of working and lead the statistical capability building programme. The VNSDS Implementation Division will also have overall responsibility for the implementation of the VNSDS. The division will be overseen/supported by the Deputy Government Statistician.

Action and activities required to meet development needs for strategic objective 3 are shown in table 5.

[10] Available at www.stats.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Principles-and-protocols-for-producers-of-tier-1-stats/principles-and-protocols-for-producers-of-tier-1-stats.pdf

[11] The Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) is an international standard for describing the data produced by surveys and other observational methods in the social, behavioural, economic, and health sciences. It is available at https://ddialliance.org/.

Table 5. Actions required to effectively manage resources and increase statistical capability

Development need	Actions and activities required	Priority	Timing
3.1. Strengthen VSNO capacity to provide statistics	3.1.1. VBoS to work towards adopting the GAMSO principles and practices	2	ongoing
3.2. Implement statistical capability framework to improve staff retention and career opportunities throughout the VSS	3.2.1. Ensure there are adequate numbers of people receiving adequate remuneration who are developing their skills in collecting, analysing, and disseminating statistics	1	ongoing
	3.2.2. Ensure that job descriptions include core competencies for each job	1	ongoing
	3.2.3. Ensure each staff member has an annual work performance assessment and development plan	1	
3.3. Provide learning and development opportunities	3.3.1. Identify career pathways and support staff mobility within the VBoS and other agencies. Support opportunities to engage in regional training activities	1	
	3.3.2. VBoS develop and implement an induction training programme for newly recruited employees	1	
	3.3.3. VBoS develop ongoing mentoring and coaching programmes	2	
	3.3.4. VBoS develop and deliver a training programme for building statistical literacy, ICT, and managerial skills with the assistance from PSC and educational organisations. Maximise the use of on-line learning.	2	ongoing
	3.3.5. Improve capacity to develop visualisations and use GIS technology	1	
	3.3.6. Collaborate with other NSOs and international organisations	1	ongoing
3.4. Efficient ICT systems	3.4.1. Review current systems, networks, software, databases, backup processes, etc, to ensure systems will support VSS needs	1	annually
3.5. Adopt new technologies and methods	3.5.1. Increase use of CAPI devices (e.g. mobile phones, fee web-based software) to improve the efficiency and accuracy of census and survey data collection	1	
	3.5.2. Explore opportunities to exploit big data	3	
3.6. Better integration and standardisation of statistical processes & data storage, improved security of personal data	3.6.1. Plan for a gradual implementation of the GSBPM in order to improve process management, standardization, documentation and efficiency of business processes	3	
3.7. Sound data and information management	3.7.1. Review/update or establish protocols for collection, classification, quality assurance, sharing and dissemination of statistics	2	Ongoing
	3.7.2. Use tools from Data Documentation Initiative12 to document processes	2	Ongoing

[12] The Data Documentation Initiative (available at https://ddialliance.org/) is a freely available international standard for describing the data produced by surveys.

4. Improved quality and range of statistics to better meet users' needs

Independent, quality statistics are a vital part of a country's infrastructure and underpin decisions by government, businesses, international agencies and development partners, and the public. The Vanuatu Government recognises the importance of reliable, timely and usable statistics and has supported the VBoS and other agencies to implement the objectives of the VNSDS 2016–2020. There is still much to be done, however, in improving alignment of international monitoring with national data, dealing with inconsistency of data sources and statistics, closing the gap between data needs and data availability (PARIS21, 2020).

The VBoS and other VSS partners will continue to work on increasing the timely availability, quality, coverage, transparency and usefulness of national and provincial statistics and indicators, especially for the subject matter areas covered in Chapter 6. This includes, regular updates to the core national dataset, developing and publishing more information at lower geographic levels, and developing and monitoring an integrated survey programme for the VSS.

The VSS also needs to monitor emerging data needs and work towards providing new statistics and methodologies.

To assure the quality of statistics, the VBoS should regularly assess and publish quality dimensions of each output. The IMF *Data Quality Assessment Framework*[13] provides a structure for assessing existing practices against best practices, including internationally accepted methodologies.

VSS producers will be responsible for improving the quality and range of statistics for their respective areas of responsibility. Within the VBoS this includes the following divisions:

- Economics
- Social and Environment
- Data Collection and Management

The VNSDS Implementation Division will lead the quality improvement work.

Action and activities required to meet development needs for strategic objective 4 are shown in table 6.

[13] Available at https://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/docs-nqaf/IMF-dqrs_factsheet.pdf

Table 6. Actions and activities required to improve the quality and range of statistics

Development need	Actions and activities required	Priority	Timing
4.1. Provide information needed to develop and monitor policies for Vanuatu and meet regional and international requirements	4.1.1. Regular monitoring and review of statistics and indicators required for NSDP, SDGS and other frameworks.	2	annual
	4.1.2. VBoS to develop and monitor integrated survey programme (households, businesses, schools, health facilities etc) for VSS to be monitored and evaluated by VSS Steering Committee.	1	
4.2. Improved supply of statistics	4.2.1. VSS to improve the timely availability, quality, coverage, transparency and usefulness of national and provincial statistics and indicators, especially the production strategies for specific subject matter areas listed in Chapter 6.	1	ongoing
4.3. Improved supply of small area statistics	4.3.1. Develop and publish more statistical information and indicators at lower geographic levels, e.g. Census Area Council profiles and Constitutional Profiles, Provincial GDP	2	
	4.3.2. Develop a programme of work to maximise use of GIS technologies	2	ongoing
4.4. Programme of continuous improvement in data quality based on international best practice and standards	4.4.1. Regularly assess and publish quality dimensions (relevance, accuracy, timeliness, accessibility, comparability, and coherence) of each statistical output	2	

6. Statistics production activities and improvements

In addition to the strategic development needs and actions identified in the previous chapter, strategies have been identified to improve statistics in four thematic areas:

- Macroeconomic statistics
- Industry and sector statistics
- Environment statistics
- Population, households.

The section below is a summary of actions needed to improve the quality and range of statistics. The full list is provided in Annex 5.

Macroeconomic statistics

National accounts (Gross Domestic Product (GDP))

The VBoS is responsible for Vanuatu's national accounts statistics and currently compiles and publishes annual GDP production and expenditure accounts in current and constant prices. The accounts need to be updated from the old base-year of 2006 to a new base year (2019 or 2020) and revised to incorporate the 2008 System of National Accounts (SNA). There is an established need for more timely estimates through a quarterly measure of GDP, which will be developed during 2021/22 with PFTAC assistance. Once the rebase and quarterly GDP developments are complete, the focus will shift to improving data sources, as discussed in action 6.10, to enable other national accounts such as GDP by province, tourism satellite account, and environmental accounts to be developed.

These developments will require significant technical assistance, preferably from a resident economic statistics advisor who will also train VBoS staff to compile the estimates independently. Additional local staffing resources will also be required to develop and maintain the expanded national accounts work programme.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.1. Improve coverage, timeliness, and methodological soundness of the **National Accounts (GDP)**	6.1.1. Compile and publish annual GDP	VBoS	1	ongoing
	6.1.2. Re-base and update national accounts to 2008 SNA	VBoS	1	
	6.1.3. Develop quarterly GDP	VBoS	2	
	6.1.4. Develop annual GDP by province	VBoS	3	
	6.1.5. Develop tourism satellite account	VBoS	3	
	6.1.6. Develop annual Environmental accounts in the SEEA framework (see also environment statistics below)	VBoS	3	

Price indexes

The Consumers Price Index (CPI), produced by VBoS, needs to be updated with a new regimen based on 2019 Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) expenditure. VBoS is seeking technical assistance from the ABS to update the CPI and develop a new processing system. ABS will also assist with determining whether other provincial outlets (currently only two urban centres Port Vila and Luganville are covered) need to be included to improve the national representativeness of the CPI.

VBoS will review users' needs for other indexes such as trade price and volume indexes, a labour cost index, and selected producer prices indexes; and begin developing the new indexes if required.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.2. Improve coverage, timeliness, and methodological soundness of the **Consumers Price Index (CPI)**	6.2.1. Compile and publish quarterly CPI statistics	VBoS	1	ongoing
	6.2.2. Improve methodology, collection, and processing system	VBoS	1	
	6.2.3. Update CPI regimen (basket)	VBoS	1	
	6.2.4. (Depending on the outcome of the NSDP and Census) extend coverage to other provinces	VBoS	2	
6.3. Develop **other indexes**	6.3.1. Review needs for other prices indexes, e.g. government wage index, producers, trade indexes	VBoS	2	
	6.3.2. Commence programme to develop new indexes	VBoS	3	

Government Finance Statistics (GFS)

Vanuatu's GFS are compiled and published by the Budget Section of the Department of Finance and Treasury (DoFT) in its monthly fiscal reports, half year economic and fiscal update, and annual Fiscal Strategy Report. GFS is currently presented on the 2001 format, but plans are underway to update to the 2014 GFS format. Central government operations data is published on the RBV's e-GDDS website. GFS data should also be available from the VBoS website via a link to the original source.

Currently only budgetary central government estimates are published. Provincial estimates are compiled but not publicly available. Proposed developments include the addition of general government, provincial government, and public corporations (state-owned enterprises).

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.4. Improve coverage, timeliness, and methodological soundness of **Government Finance Statistics (GFS)**	6.4.1. Compile and publish monthly and annual GFS according to GFS 2014 on VBoS website and supply data to GFS Yearbook	DoFT	2	ongoing
	6.4.2. Publish Provincial Government	DoFT	1	
	6.4.3. Include local government, extrabudgetary units	DoFT	2	
	6.4.4. Include financial corporations	DoFT	2	
	6.4.5. Include public corporations/state-owned enterprises	DoFT	3	

Balance of Payments (BoP) statistics

The RBV's Department of Research and Statistics is responsible for compiling and disseminating quarterly balance of payments statistics using the Sixth Edition of the IMF's Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6) conceptual framework. Tables and a brief commentary are published in the RBV Quarterly Economic Review. The BoP information is not currently available on the RBV e-GDDS website. The data has been aggregated into the e-GDDS format and will be published once it has been validated and approved by RBV.

A proposal to develop BoP projections and estimates is currently unfunded and un-resourced but is expected to occur in 2022. There is a proposal to transfer the compilation of BoP from RBV to VBoS. This will occur once VBoS has acquired adequate resources and training, possibly by 2025.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.5. Improve coverage, timeliness, and methodological soundness of **Balance of Payments (BOP)**	6.5.1. Compile and publish annual and quarterly BOP according to BPM6 on RBV and VBoS websites, and on the e-GDDS National Summary of Data page	RBV	1	
	6.5.2. Improve scope and coverage of BOP surveys	RBV	2	
	6.5.3. Develop BOP projections and estimates	RBV	2	
	6.5.4. Transition responsibility of BOP from RBV to VBoS	RBV=> VBoS	3	

Monetary and finance statistics

Monetary and finance statistics, including financial soundness indicators, are produced by RBV and are available in the Quarterly Economic Review, the RBV monthly economic and financial news, on e-GDDS website, and in the IMF's *International Financial Statistics* publication. RBV currently reports 31 series to IMF, covering mostly data on commercial banks, out of the 121 series that are part of the IMF Financial Access Survey. RBV has expanded survey coverage to include other financial corporations Vanuatu (Vanuatu National Provident Fund, Credit Corporation Vanuatu Limited, Agriculture Development Bank) but requires more time to publish the series. This includes seeking IMF Statistics Department endorsement in June 2021. More time is needed to collect data from insurance companies and credit unions etc: timing for publication is proposed for 2025.

IMF/PFTAC recommends adding two further datasets that the IMF promotes to improve macroprudential analysis:

- financial soundness indicators
- financial statistics based on a balance sheet approach.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.6. Improve coverage, timeliness, and methodological soundness of **Monetary and finance statistics**	6.6.1. Compile and publish quarterly and annual monetary and finance statistics according to MFSM5	RBV	1	ongoing
	6.6.2. Publish other financial corporations' (CCVL, VNPF, VADB) statistics	RBV	2	
	6.6.3. Improvements to Financial Access Survey	RBV	2	
	6.6.4. Quality assessment and publish metadata	RBV	2	
	6.6.5. Publish remaining other financial corporations	RBV	3	
	6.6.6. Examine feasibility of producing financial soundness indicators	RBV	3	
	6.6.7. Examine feasibility of producing financial statistics on a balance sheet approach	RBV	3	

Industry and sector statistics

As well as being important statistics in their own right, industry and sector statistics are important source data for macroeconomic statistics such as GDP and Balance of Payments. Improvements to industry and sector statistics are needed to improve the quality and range of national accounts and other macroeconomic statistics.

Business register and administrative data

A business register is an important tool that allows the integration of business survey and administrative data through the application of consistent classifications and statistical unit

definitions. It also provides a sampling frame for surveying businesses. VBoS has made significant progress developing a Vanuatu Business Register and further coverage and quality improvements will be made over the 2021–25 period. VBoS will continue to work with administrative data providers to extend the range of data that can be used to maintain the Business Register and replace direct surveying of businesses. The Asian Development Bank is currently providing technical assistance to link the business register to associated administrative data and surveys.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.7. Strategy to **increase the use of administrative data**	6.7.1. Develop strategy and methodology for using administrative data to improve the business register and minimise direct data collection from businesses	VBoS	1	
6.8. Formalise arrangements for **supply of administrative data** through MOUs and supply agreements	6.8.1. Formal data supply agreement for customs, immigration, and tax data from DCIR	VBoS DCIR	1	
	6.8.2. MOU for supply of data from VNPF	VBoS VNPF	1	
	6.8.3. MOU for supply of company and business registrations from Vanuatu Financial Services Commission (VFSC)	VBoS VFSC	1	
6.9. Improve coverage and quality of the **VBoS business register**	6.9.1 Improve business register coverage through integration of BR, VBoS data collections, customs, tax, NPF, company and business licence, and other administrative data	VBoS	1	

Business statistics

In conjunction with action 6.7.1. VBoS needs to establish requirements for conducting business surveys to collect data that cannot be sourced from administrative data. A business survey/census is needed in 2021 to collect annual benchmark data for use in national accounts.

To ensure timely release of quarterly GDP estimates, some direct surveying of Vanuatu's largest business will be needed to avoid delays waiting for VAT returns. This omnibus survey of large businesses will also capture investment and international trade in services data for use in BoP estimates. With VBoS taking over the data collection from large businesses, this is a first step in the transition of BoP responsibilities from RBV to VBoS.

Improved construction data is required for quarterly and annual national accounts. This may be facilitated through the official development assistance survey (action 6.16.1) which will collect data on major infrastructure projects, as well as collection of building permits data from MLNR.

Collection of annual financial statements from state-owned enterprises would benefit GDP and GFS estimates. Telecommunication statistics are released by the TRBR but have not been published on their website since 2018. Utilities and infrastructure statistics are mainly covered in the environment statistics section below. The quarterly Market Survey is covered below in Agriculture.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.10. Improve coverage of **business statistics**	6.10.1. Establish requirements for published industry statistics - GDP, manufacturing, retail trade, accommodation, etc	VBoS	1	
	6.10.2. Conduct business survey/census	VBoS	1	
	6.10.3. Develop "Omnibus" survey of Vanuatu's largest businesses to collect quarterly data for NA and BOP (including trade in services)	VBoS	2	
	6.10.4. Develop and implement a programme of surveys to collect additional data not available from tax data, including small scale surveys to collect data on the informal sector, e.g. street vendor survey, and the non-profit sector	VBoS	2	
	6.10.5. Regular publication of quarterly and annual surveys e.g. industry production by volume and value	VBoS	3	
6.11. Develop and publish quarterly **construction statistics**	6.11.1. Examine feasibility of collating and publishing construction permits data for all provinces	MLNR VBoS	2	
	6.11.2. VBoS support DSPPAC to collect quarterly building activity for major donor-funded projects	VBoS **DSPPAC** VPMU	2	
	6.11.3. Regular publication of quarterly construction statistics	VBoS	3	
6.12. Improve **utilities and infrastructure statistics**	See environment statistics section below for electricity, water, and waste.			
	6.12.1. Publish annual Telecommunications Sector Report	TRBR	1	ongoing
	6.12.2. Compile and publish annual utilities and infrastructure statistics (RBV, TRBR, MIPU, ports and other data collated into MS-Excel spreadsheet and report)	VBoS	3	

Tourism statistics

Tourism statistics are needed by government and businesses to support the growth of Vanuatu tourism. They are also needed for national accounts and the tourism satellite account.

International arrival and departure statistics are sourced from completed arrival and departure cards that have been loaded into the passenger processing module within the ASYCUDA world system. This data is downloaded by VBoS for checking and publishing. VBoS runs checks to ensure all cards have been processed. Missing data is entered manually along with Santo-Pekoa International Airport arrivals and departures which aren't currently captured in the ASYCUDA system.

VBoS publishes monthly visitor arrival statistics on the VBoS website around four months after the end of the reference month. Processes need to be streamlined to improve publication timeliness to within two months after the reference month, for use in national accounts and for monitoring of tourist activity.

The Vanuatu International Visitor Survey, funded by the New Zealand Government and conducted by New Zealand Tourism Research Institute, is currently on hold due to Covid-19. It is expected to resume when international borders reopen.

VBoS and MTTCNVB is developing a survey to collect occupancy data from Vanuatu accommodation providers. This will get underway when international tourism resumes.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.13. Improve access to timely **tourism statistics**	6.13.1. Establish requirements for data for tourism satellite account	VBoS	1	
	6.13.2. Improve system and processes to ensure all cards are captured within Passengers Processing Module	DCIR, VBoS	1	
	6.13.3. Include destination (island) question on arrivals card for visitors	VBoS DVIPS	1	
	6.13.4. Improve timeliness of International Arrival Statistics to within two months of the end of the reference month	VBoS	2	
	6.13.5. Resume International Visitor Survey when borders reopen	NZTRI, TD	1	
	6.13.6. Develop and publish Accommodation occupancy rate survey	VBoS, MTTCNVB	3	

External trade statistics

VBoS publishes an annual international merchandise trade statistics report on the VBoS website. Monthly publications were put on hold in 2020, due to the transition to processing customs entries in the ASYCUDA world system but are expected to resume later in 2021. Quarterly trade figures are published in the RBV Quarterly Economic Review.

Improvements are needed to collecting trade in services data, required for BoP estimates. This may occur through an omnibus survey to collect external and domestic financial transactions data from large businesses (discussed above in action 6.10.3).

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.14. Improve timeliness, quality, and coverage of **international trade statistics**	6.14.1. Resume publication of monthly International Merchandise Trade Statistics (IMTS) (required within six weeks of the end of the reference month)	VBoS	1	
	6.14.2. Improvements to trade in services statistics for BoP (see action 6.10.3)	VBoS, RBV	2	

Labour force and employment statistics

VBoS had planned to conduct a Household Labour Force Survey (LFS) in 2021 but was unable to secure funding. It is hoped that the survey can be conducted in 2022. VBoS also plans to publish labour demand statistics (employee counts by industry) from VNPF data when it receives a regular supply of data.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.15. Improve **labour force and employment statistics**	6.15.1. Subject to securing funding, develop and conduct Labour Force Survey	VBoS	1	
	6.15.2. Improve/develop collections and systems to enable quarterly supply of employment and wage data to VBoS (see also 6.8.2. to develop MOU between VNPF and VBoS)	VNPF	2	
	6.15.3. Compile and publish annual labour supply and demand statistics from survey and administrative data sources	VBoS	3	

Official development assistance (ODA) statistics

The Vanuatu Government needs good information on the direct financial and in-kind support that it receives from official development partners. This information allows the Government to better estimate how its annual budget expenditure commitments will be met. ODA data is also needed to improve GFS, BoP, and GDP estimates. The PMO's Department of Strategic Policy, Planning & Aid Coordination (DSPPAC), with support from VBoS, are developing an ODA database and will conduct a quarterly survey of development partners to collect information about actual and future expenditure commitments.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.16. Improve coverage of **official development assistance (ODA) statistics**	6.16.1. Completed the development of the ODA database to include aid in-kind and funds disbursed outside FMIS	**DSPPAC,** DoFT, VBoS	2	
	6.16.2. Conduct quarterly donor survey of expenditure by project	**DSPPAC,** VBoS VPMU	2	
	6.16.3. Publish annual ODA statistics	**DoFT**	2	

Environmental statistics

Resources will be required to implement the recommendations from the 2017 VBoS *Environment Statistics National Assessment Report (ESNAR)* and the 2020 VBoS *Statistical Development Plan for Vanuatu Disaster-related Statistics*. Activities include establishing an environment statistics portal on the VBoS website, collecting source data and compiling land, water, energy, and waste accounts in the System of Environment-Economic Accounting (SEEA) framework. VBoS will also develop and populate databases/webpages for environment and disaster-related statistics, in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO).

The use of GIS/satellite technology to provide observational data to track frequently changing environment is important and funding is needed to provide hardware, software, and training to use the technology.

The land coverage maps need to be updated, in consultation with, and support of SPC.

The DoE is responsible for leading the collection, analysis, and dissemination of data on progress towards the National Energy Road Map's (NERM) quantitative targets. This includes information on usage and costs of supplying diesel and solar-powered electricity. The NERM Implementation Plan includes an action to improve the collection, analysis, and monitoring of data on energy consumption by DoE, and include training of DoE officials as needed.

The Vanuatu Meteorology and Geohazards Department (VMGD) has an excellent website which provides weather forecasts, marine forecasts, volcanic and earthquake information and maps. Historic weather/climate data is available on the Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology website.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.17. VBoS leads the implementation of activities to improve coverage and access to **environmental statistics**	6.17.1. Implement ESNAR recommendations	**VBoS**	**2**	ongoing
	6.17.2. Establish needs and develop statistical framework	VBoS, **DoEPaC**, PMO	2	
	6.17.3. Develop collection methodology and collect data (through planned censuses and surveys)	VBoS	2	
	6.17.4. Develop a central repository for environmental data within VBoS	**VBoS**, DoEPaC, PMO	2	
	6.17.5. Develop and populate environmental statistics database and webpage	**VBoS**	2	
	6.17.6. Use GIS/satellite technology to provide observational data to track frequently changing environment	**VBoS, MLNRGM**	1	ongoing
6.18. Improve coverage and access to **climate change and disaster risk reduction statistics**	6.18.1. Continue to maintain weather, climate, and geo-hazards data	**VMGD**	1	ongoing
	6.18.2. Develop and endorse disaster-related statistics plan	**NDMO,** VMGD, VBoS	1	
	6.18.3. Develop and populate disaster-related statistics database and webpage (to sit under environment page)	**VBoS**, NDMO	1	
	6.18.4. Conduct post-disaster surveys and assessments after each significant disaster occurrence	**VBoS, NDMO**	2	ongoing
6.19. Improve **land statistics**	6.19.1. Update and produce regular land coverage maps, in consultation with, and support of SPC	**MLNRGM**	2	
	6.19.2. Develop and publish Land Account	VBoS	3	
6.20. Improve **water statistics**	6.20.1. Identify data gaps and develop data sources for missing data	**VBoS**	1	
	6.20.2. Collate, integrate, and validate water data from suppliers, businesses, and domestic users for use in SEEA Water Account	**VBoS, URA**	2	
	6.20.3. Develop and publish Water Account	**VBoS**	2	
6.21. Improve **energy statistics**	6.21.1. Compile and publish statistics required for Energy Road Map monitoring and evaluation	**DoE**, VBoS	1	ongoing
	6.21.2. Collect household energy use in HIES (5-yearly)	**VBoS**	2	
	6.21.3. Develop and publish Energy Account	**VBoS**	3	
6.22. Improve **solid waste statistics**	6.22.1. Determine data gaps and feasibility of collecting information on illegal dumping, waste generated and disposed, waste exports	**VBoS,** URA	3	
	6.22.2. Survey to collect above data	**VBoS**	3	
	6.22.3. Develop and publish Waste Account	**VBoS**	3	

Primary sector statistics for agriculture, forestry, livestock, fisheries, and biosecurity

There is a strong need for agriculture sector statistics for MALFFB monitoring and evaluation and to improve the accuracy of national accounts. Primary sector statistics needs, and a data collection plan could be identified through the process of developing a Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Statistics (SPARS), using the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) framework.

A good amount of information about agriculture is collected in VBoS surveys, including the Census agriculture module (livestock numbers, households involved in fishing) and HIES (income from

agriculture and expenditure on local food (purchased and own production). The next Agriculture Census, planned for 2022, should be supplemented in other years by surveys of small land holders. A regular annual summary of agriculture, fishing and forestry statistics should be produced for general dissemination to growers, suppliers, and government agencies.

MALFFB needs human resources, capacity building and technical support to build statistical monitoring and evaluation systems. VBoS currently does not have the staffing to support MALFFB with statistical activities.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.23. Improve capacity to collect, compile and provide access to **agriculture, forestry, livestock, fisheries, and biosecurity statistics**	6.23.1. Develop and agree requirements and implementation plan via Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Statistics (SPARS)	**MALFFB**, VBoS, PMO	1	
	6.23.2. Develop and conduct Agriculture Census	**MALFFB,** VBoS	1	
	6.23.3. Improvements to MALFFB data collections	**MALFFB**	2	ongoing
	6.23.4. Develop/improve fisheries data management system	**MALFFB**	2	ongoing
	6.23.5. Compile and publish annual agriculture statistics report	**VBoS**, MALFFB	3	

Social sector statistics

Population, households, and demographic statistics

Results of the 2019/20 VBoS Baseline Survey will be published progressively through 2021.

The Vanuatu Census of Population and Housing is conducted every 10 years. The latest census was conducted in November 2020, and results will be published in 2021/22 through a series of reports and monographs. Due to gaps in recording births and deaths in the vital statistics registration systems, the Census is currently used to derive all official population and demographic statistics, including population growth rates, birth rates and death rates.

Registration of births and deaths is the responsibility of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' (MoIA), Vanuatu Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) Taskforce. Coverage has improved in recent years due to partnerships with MoH enforcing the registration of new births at hospital prior to discharge. Additionally, MoET is integrating the registration of children through schools using the birth certificate number as the common identifier, as part of their initial enrolment process. The current focus is on improving recording of deaths and cause of death. The work of rolling out the national CRVS database will continue during the 2021-25 period.

Following on from the Vanuatu Statistics Report 2012–2014 published in 2018, VBoS/MoIA should publish annual vital statistics and continue to report on progress on improving coverage of the database. In the coming years, the VBoS will work on developing annual population estimates that will use CRVS and immigration data to estimate the population between census and HIES years. Population projections will also be modelled using current and past population counts.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.24. Improve access to information required to monitor **NSDP and SDGs**	6.24.1. Develop database for NSDP dataset	**VBoS DSPPAC**	1	
	6.24.2. Publish results of 2019/20 NSDP Baseline survey	**VBoS**	1	
6.25. Improve access to timely and reliable **population and demographic indicators**	6.25.1. Complete processing, tabulation, analysis, and publish 2020 Census of Population and Housing	VBoS	1	
	6.25.2. Analyse and publish Area council profile and constituency profiles	VBoS	1	
	6.25.3. Conduct and analyse HIES (NSDP Baseline Survey) (5-yearly) for wellbeing, poverty and living conditions statistics	**VBoS** DSPPAC	2	
6.26. Improve access to timely statistics about **wellbeing, poverty, and living conditions**	6.26.1. Develop, analyse, and publish indicators and analytical reports using data derived from Census, HIES and other survey data, as part of the NSDP monitoring and evaluation framework	**VBoS** DSPPAC	2	
6.27. Improve access to timely and reliable **population estimates** and data to support these estimates	6.27.1. Continue to implement programme to improve **vital statistics** and develop CVRS system	MoIA (CRVS) MoH, VBoS	1	ongoing
	6.27.2. Continue program to improve access to **health facilities' HIS systems** to use for demographic indicators	MoH, MoIA, VBoS	1	ongoing
	6.27.3. Compile, analyse, and publish annual vital statistics (births and migration)	**VBoS**	2	
	6.27.4. Develop annual sub-national population estimates and projections (reconcile CVRS with next HIES)	**VBoS**	3	

Education statistics

The coverage of education statistics has improved immensely with the introduction of the Open VEMIS (OV) system. The first annual Education Statistics Report containing 2019 primary and secondary schools' data and new tables for early childhood care and education and post-school education and training was published in March 2020. This is a significant achievement for MoET and the VSS. The Education statistical tables and Statistical Digest are now being produced annually.

Data on students transferring between schools is recorded but not currently being reported in published statistics. A new report needs to be created to include this data in the output tables.

MoET requires support and assistance from VBoS to create an Examination Module in the OV to record and report on assessment and examination data. Currently data is stored in regional databases but needs to be centralised for reporting purposes.

MoET notes that many birth certificate numbers are missing in the OV. Further work is required with CRVS to link birth certificate numbers to enrolled students.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.28. Improve access to timely and reliable **education, numeracy, and literacy statistics**	6.28.1. Continue to implement program to improve range and coverage of education statistics from ECCE to post-secondary and tertiary	**MoET**, VQA, VBoS, DoT	1	ongoing annual
	6.28.2. Create an OV Examination Module to record and report on assessment and examination data	**MoET** VBoS	2	
	6.28.3. Improve the match between enrolments to birth certificate numbers in OV	**MoET CRVS**	2	
	6.28.4. Improve measures for assessing literacy and numeracy rates	**MoET, VBoS**	2	

Health statistics

MoH regularly reports health data for the national minimum set of core indicators to VBoS and international agencies such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF. Many statistical indicators for SDG and NSDP monitoring are collected in household surveys such as the STEPS survey (non-communicative disease (NCD) risk factors) in 2011 and the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) in 2013.

The NSDS includes proposals for a combined Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) and DHS for 2021, NCD STEPS survey in 2022, and a Malaria Cluster Survey in 2025.

Although there have been some improvements have been made to health and hospital reporting systems, more needs to be done. Additional statisticians and training courses are needed to increase skills and capacity to improve Health Information Systems (HIS) reporting. MoH should begin annual reporting on statistics extracted from its HIS.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.29. Improve access to timely and reliable **health statistics**	6.29.1. Continue to improve statistics collected from all health facilities' HIS systems and publish annually	**MoH**	1	ongoing
	6.29.2. Conduct, analyse, and publish Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)/ Demographic Health Survey	**VBoS** MOH UNICEF WHO	1	
	6.29.3. Develop and conduct NCD Steps Survey	**MoH,** VBoS	2	
	6.29.4. Develop and conduct Malaria Cluster Survey	**MoH,** VBoS	3	

Gender

Collection and publication of gender-based statistics is spasmodic and weak coordination among stakeholders has resulted into duplication of efforts. Apart from VBoS censuses and surveys, there is a lack of gender disaggregated data at local community level. Statistics are needed to inform the analysis and reporting for NSDP and SDGs on gender equality in terms of economic empowerment; women's access to, and uptake of, basic services; and access to and control over resources.

Recent publications about gender include the FAO's Country Gender Assessment of Agriculture and the Rural Sector in Vanuatu and CARE International's Rapid Gender Analysis COVID-19: Vanuatu.

VBoS and the Department of Women's Affairs should coordinate efforts to collect and publish indicators required for monitoring and evaluation of national gender policy.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.30. Improve access to timely and reliable **gender statistics**	6.30.1. Develop a plan and timetable to collect and publish indicators required for monitoring and evaluation of national gender policy	**DoWA,** VBoS, PMO, NGOs	1	

Children and youth

The Child Desk Office of MJCS is responsible for developing and strengthening action plans for children and integrating the UN Convention of the Rights for Children into government plans and programmes. MYSD aims to aid the youth of Vanuatu to live healthy and active lifestyles.

There has been good progress in identifying statistics needed for reporting on children and youth. Statistical indicators have been developed for the National Youth Policy and Convention of the Rights of the Child reporting. Frameworks are being developed for monitoring and evaluation of national child protection policy and human rights treaty reporting. However, there is a lack of human and technical resources to develop reporting systems, in particular a centralised child protection information management system. Standardised tools, definitions, and quality protocols also need to be developed for administrative data reporting.

VBoS, MJCS, and MYSD should coordinate efforts continue to collect and publish indicators required for monitoring and evaluation of children's and youth policies.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.31. Improve access to timely and reliable **children and youth statistics**	6.31.1. Develop a plan and timetable to develop reporting systems and publish indicators required for monitoring and evaluation of children's and youth policies	MJCS, MYSD, VBoS, NGOs	1	
	6.31.2. Publish Youth Monograph	VBoS	1	

Disability

The results of a sample survey for Rapid Assessment Disability were published in 2017 in the report, Disability Inclusion in Disaster Risk Reduction: Experiences of people with disabilities in Vanuatu during and after Tropical Cyclone Pam and recommendations for humanitarian agencies. The survey covered Tanna Island only. The Water, Women and Disability Study, conducted in 2019, covered the TORBA and SANMA provinces. The Washington Group series of disability questions[14] were incorporated into NSDP Baseline questionnaire and the 2020 Population and Housing Census.

It is important that disability data collected in the various surveys is integrated to provide a fuller picture of disability nationally in and in the provinces. The NSDS includes a proposal to develop a disability survey using the Rapid Assessment Disability Survey toolkit.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.32. Improve access to timely and reliable **disability statistics**	6.32.1. Develop framework to integrate data from various sources and publish a report on disability issues	MJCS, VBoS	2	
	6.32.2. Conduct and disseminate results from a Rapid Assessment Disability Survey	VBoS	2	

Human rights statistics

Vanuatu has ratified five of the nine core human rights treaties, including:

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Convention Against Torture

The UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner has developed a framework and set of indicators to measure the implementation of human rights standards and commitments. Guidance for developing indicators is available on the High Commissioner's Office webpage. The VBoS will assist the relevant ministries to develop a framework and programme to collect indicator for reporting on Vanuatu human rights standards and commitments.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.33. Improve access to timely and reliable **human rights statistics**	6.33.1. Develop statistics framework and develop indicators for reporting on Vanuatu human rights standards and commitments	**VBoS**, MJCS, PMO, MFAT	3	

Crime and justice

MJCS is continuing to implement a programme to improve statistics collected across the law and justice sector. There are some data on women and children violence, and crime data up to province level. Village chiefs send data to MJCS. However, MJCS does not have sufficient budget or people with the necessary skills, or have had training, to produce and disseminate regular statistical outputs.

[14] www.washingtongroup-disability.com/washington-group-question-sets/

The Vanuatu Police Force (VPF) is responsible for reported crime and apprehensions statistics and the Vanuatu Department of Correctional Services (VCSD) is responsible for prison statistics. MJCS and VBoS should work together to summarise crime and justice statistics and publish an annual statistics report on VBoS website.

Subject to funding, a Victimisation Survey is scheduled for 2025.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.34. Improve access to timely and reliable crime and justice statistics	6.34.1. Continue to implement program to improve statistics collected across the law and justice sector including statistics about women and children subjected to violence	**MJCS** VBoS VCSD VPF NGOs	1	ongoing
	7.34.2. Develop coordinated system for centralised access to regular statistical data on crime and justice	**MJCS** VBoS VPF VCSD	2	
	7.34.3. Compile and publish annual Crime and Justice Statistics Report	**VBoS** MJCS VPF VCSD	3	
	7.34.4. Develop and conduct Victimisation Survey	**MJCS** MoIA VBoS	3	

Culture – Vanuatu wellbeing

Indicators of well-being were developed and piloted in Vanuatu from 2010-2012 in an effort to integrate Melanesian cultural values into the indicators used for decision-making. These alternative indicators focused on areas where there were gaps in official statistics including access to natural resources, traditional knowledge, and community vitality. Several well-being indicators have been adopted as key indicators for the monitoring and evaluation of the NSDP 2016-2030.

The culture sector is organized under the structure of the National Cultural Council (VNCC) and depends on data collected in household surveys to inform progress against some objectives of national interest. The VNCC includes:

- Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs
- Vanuatu National Council of Women
- Vanuatu Cultural Centre (VKS)
- National Film and Audio Archives
- National Library
- National Museum

It is important that well-being data continue to be collected and reported to better understand the livelihood needs of the population and the effects of development across the country. The well-being series represents the best opportunity to track changes that are of cultural importance. The VBoS must work in partnership with VKS and other culture sector agencies to meet this challenge.

Development need	Actions required	Who	Priority	Timing
6.35. Improve access to timely and reliable **wellbeing statistics**	6.35.1. Prepare well-being questionnaire module and tabulation plan prior to next scheduled HIES	**VBoS**, VNCC members	2	
6.36. Improved management of culture sector data	6.36.1. Engage members of VNCC in assessing data management needs	**VBoS**	1	
	6.36.2. Develop roadmap for establishment of a Cultural Information Management System	**VBoS,** VKS	1	

7. Implementing the Vanuatu NSDS

VNSDS implementation structure

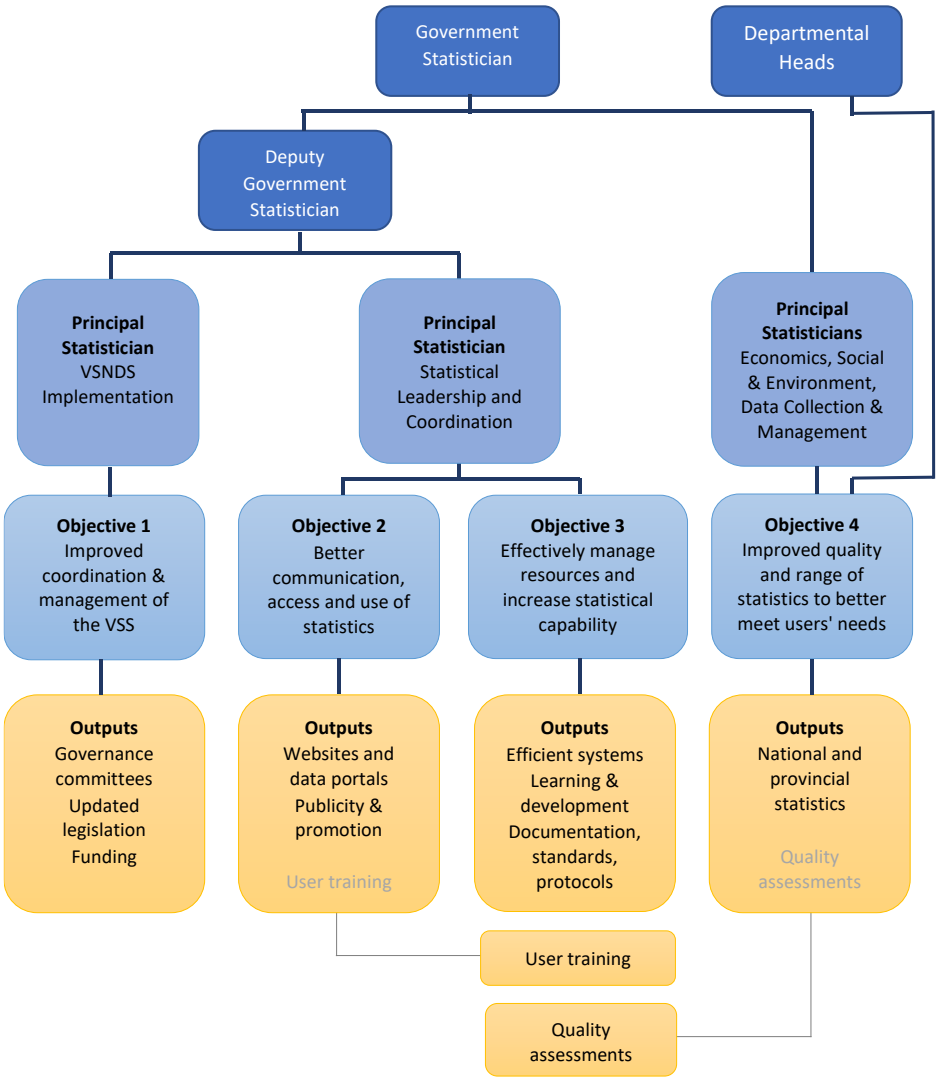
A new position of Principal Statistician VNSDS Implementation will be established in the VBoS. The Principal Statistician will lead the **external facing** VNSDS implementation activities: legislation changes, advisory committees, and coordinating funding.

The VBoS Principal Statistician, Statistical Leadership and Coordination will lead the **internal facing** activities: developing systems and technology improvements, establishing the training centre, and leading quality assessments; as well as website maintenance, publicity, and promotion, etc. A statistical capability framework will be developed and implemented for VBoS, then rolled out across the VSS.

The other VBoS divisions are responsible for the ongoing and new VBoS statistical outputs, while other agencies will maintain responsibility for their respective outputs.

The proposed implementation structure is shown in figure 4.

Figure 4. Proposed VNSDS implementation structure



Financing

Implementation and monitoring and evaluation of the VNSDS will require substantial human, financial and material resources. Funding for core statistical operations currently comes from the Vanuatu Government, supplemented by development partner support for major collections and information systems developments. This funding arrangement is expected to continue in the future. Funding will need to be sufficient to ensure both the implementation of the strategy and the sustainability of the VSS into the future.

The overall funding required by the VBoS over the 2024–2028 period is approximately VUV 342 million, VUV 14 million from the Government budget and VUV 327 million of donor assistance, largely for technical assistance, data collection, and surveys.

Table 7. Estimated budget costs of VNSDS implementation 2024–2028, millions of Vatu

Strategic objectives	Vatu (million)					
	Total	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Improved coordination and management	38.91	7.78	7.78	7.78	7.78	7.78
Better communication, access, and use	7.98	0.10	3.22	0.22	4.22	0.22
Effectively manage resources	1.12	1.12				
Improved statistics	29.24	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85	5.85
Economic statistics	20.00			20.00		
Environment statistics	50.00			50.00		
Social sector statistics	0.68	0.68				
Total budget	147.94	14.85	16.85	83.85	17.85	13.85

The significant items are for planned large-scale surveys (shown in table 4), additional staffing for statistics quality and coverage improvements, capacity building and training, and improved coordination of the VSS.

Table 8. Estimated budget costs for large-scale surveys 2024–2028, millions of Vatu

Survey	Years	Vatu (million)			
		Total	Government	Donors	In-kind
Population and Housing Census	2020	219	25	194	
Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey/ Demographic Health Survey	2024	90		74	16
Business Census	2023	40		40	
Business Survey	2024	10		10	
Labour Force Survey	2025	90	20	70	
NCD Steps Survey	2025				
Agriculture Census	2022	283		283	
Rapid Assessment Disability Survey	2026				
Household Income and Expenditure Survey	2025	110	30	80	
Malaria Cluster Survey	2027				
Victimisation Survey	2027				

Capacity development

To achieve the vision of a national statistical system recognised for providing timely and reliable statistics there will need to be a steady and sustained improvement in the delivery of statistical products and services. This can only be achieved through improvements to the legal, institutional, and organisational environment, and individuals' capacity to carry out the day-to-day operations of the VSS.

Figure 5 presents a framework to enable the VSS achieve its vision for the future. It contains actions and behaviours for VSS participants at all levels; the VSS organisations, the managers and supervisors, and the individuals themselves; as we all have a role to play in achieving the strategic objectives of the VNSDS.

Figure 5. Framework for institutional development and capacity building

Framework for institutional development and capacity building					
Strategic objectives	**Improved coordination & management of the VSS**	**Better communication, access and use of statistics**	**Effectively manage resources**	**Increase statistical capability**	**Improved quality and range of statistics to better meet users' needs**
Statistics Advisory Committee	Provide advice and direction to the VBoS and VSS partners.	Promote VSS to ensure high-level political ownership and support collaboration between VSS partners.	Endorse and promote VNSDS budget and statistical activities.	Make recommendations and support the statistics capacity building programme.	Guide and prioritise statistical activities and outputs across the VSS.
VSS partners	Work collaboratively with other VSS partners to achieve strategic objectives.	Establish mechanisms for approving and releasing statistics. Expedite access to administrative data for statistical purposes.	Manage people and resources and implement GAMESO to achieve high performance and value for money.	Create a learning environment that supports the development of skills, expertise and behaviours needed to meet current and future needs.	Communicate requirements for statistics. Deliver relevant, timely, good quality statistics.
NSO	Lead the VSS by providing leadership, coordination, statistical advice, and capacity building activities to achieve strategic objectives.	Manage the VSO website as a "one-stop shop" for VSS statistics. Publish official statistics in a timely manner. Facilitate access to microdata.	Coordinate funding and management of statistical activities. Adopt new technologies. Lead the VSS through the use of frameworks, standards and policies.	Lead the statistics capacity building programme. Coordinate training and development activities for producers and users.	Seek to understand and meet users' needs and deliver statistics as required in the VNSDS 2021-25 and VBoS Business Plan.
VSS managers and supervisors	Work collaboratively with staff and other VSS managers to achieve strategic objectives.	Present statistical outputs to users. Promote the use of statistics for policy and decision-making purposes.	Influence the team to work in efficient and cost-effective ways. Generate more efficient and improved ways of working.	Develop individual work plans and conduct performance appraisals. Mentor and train staff. Identify training needs and opportunities for staff.	Manage resources and staff to ensure timely delivery of statistical outputs. Quality assure outputs to high standards, minimising errors.
VSS individuals	Work collaboratively within teams and across the VSS to achieve strategic objectives.	Transform datasets into meaningful outputs that maintain confidentiality.	Recommend more efficient and improved ways of working.	Take responsibility for own learning and development. Apply knowledge and skills in ways that add value to the VSS.	Collect, process, analyse, and publish statistics.

The Paris21 Guidelines for Developing Statistical Capacity 4.0 provide useful guidance to support the VBoS and the VSS to improve statistical and organisational capacity.

VNSDS implementation timeline

Statistical agencies should not wait until the VNSDS budget has been approved but should continue with their respective statistical work programmes. The upcoming revision to the Statistics Act should not delay important activities such as establishing the SAC. VBoS will continue to recruit additional staff as approved by PSC in 2018. The various committees required to lead and support the VSS need to be established and be operating as soon as possible. Macroeconomic statistics improvements will continue with technical assistance from ABS, PFTAC, SPC, and others. Programmes and activities to support staff retention and develop staff capabilities need to be developed and implemented.

VBoS and other agencies may consider seeking assistance from the Australian and New Zealand government's volunteer programmes. These programmes, which incur very little cost to the users, have been successful in other Vanuatu agencies and in other Pacific countries. Volunteer assignments may include assistance with ICT, website development and improvements to data access, GIS, and human resources development.

Conditions required for a successful implementation of the VNSDS

A successful implementation of the VNSDS will depend on several factors including:

- Government and development partner acknowledgement of the importance of statistics in providing metrics for evidence-based policy, results-based management, and to inform progress in implementing the VNSDP
- a clear financial commitment from the Government to support the implementation of the strategy by providing the necessary financial and human resources to VBoS and wider VSS
- continued financial and technical support from donors and other development partners
- strong governance of the implementation programme by the SAB and development partner committee
- VBoS commitment, willingness, and ability to lead the VNSDS implementation and coordinate VSS activities in the future
- commitment from VSS managers and statisticians to exhibit and live by the VSS values
- the ability to recruit and train the new staff and build the skills of existing staff
- provision of external technical assistance during the VNSDS implementation period and for some time afterwards.

Issues and risks

The key issues and risks for the VNSDS to achieve its goals are:

1. That the legislative framework is not strengthened so that VBoS has a clearer mandate and authority to lead the VSS and provide relevant statistics. The Statistics Act review should be completed, and legislation changes prioritised on the Government's legislative agenda.
2. That adequate funding cannot be obtained. Lack of funding has severely limited progress in achieving the goals of VNSDS 2016–2020.
3. That staff cannot be recruited, trained, and retained. Remuneration should be adequate salary levels for the level of expertise required by statisticians. Agencies need support from PSC and funding to finance training at local and international training organisations.
4. That sufficient international technical assistance (TA) cannot be obtained. VBoS is currently seeking a resident economics statistics advisor to assist with implementing macroeconomic

statistics improvements and are hopeful that a suitable person can be recruited. Further technical assistance will be needed to support the national accounts improvements, the social survey programme, and to provide training.

8. Monitoring and evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation is an important process with which to judge the relevance, performance, and success of the NSDS. Monitoring focuses on activity implementation and output delivery. Evaluation concerns the achievement of results, the effects and impacts on the global goal of the NSDS. It helps draw lessons and capitalise on experience for a future NSDS (PARIS21, 2018).

VNSDS progress and priorities should be reviewed regularly, especially after changes to national policies and international bilateral agreements. Alignment of the VNSDS with Government policies will help to ensure that statistics are used to influence budgetary allocations and in turn guarantee that adequate funding is provided for the VNSDS.

Evaluations may be undertaken by an independent reviewer (most likely a national or international consultant). Peer reviews by fellow statisticians from all parts of the VSS are also an important way to measure progress. The peer review evaluates the functioning of all aspects of an VSS (institutional, organisational, statistical production mechanism, etc), identifies strong and weak points, makes recommendations on improving performance, and helps share good practices.

Results of evaluations and peer reviews should be presented to the SAC and the Minister of Statistics at least every two years. The VNSDS should be a living document so adjustments should be made for changes in priorities to maintain the relevance of the document.

Draft performance indicators for monitoring implementation progress of the outcomes and strategic objectives are included in Annex 4.

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Annex 1. Vanuatu NSDS contributors

Name, role	Agency	Area of interest	Sector Working Group
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John Naviti, Economist, Finance Department	DOFT	GFS	Economics
Wenny Tarikelana, Economist, Finance Department	DOFT	GFS	Economics
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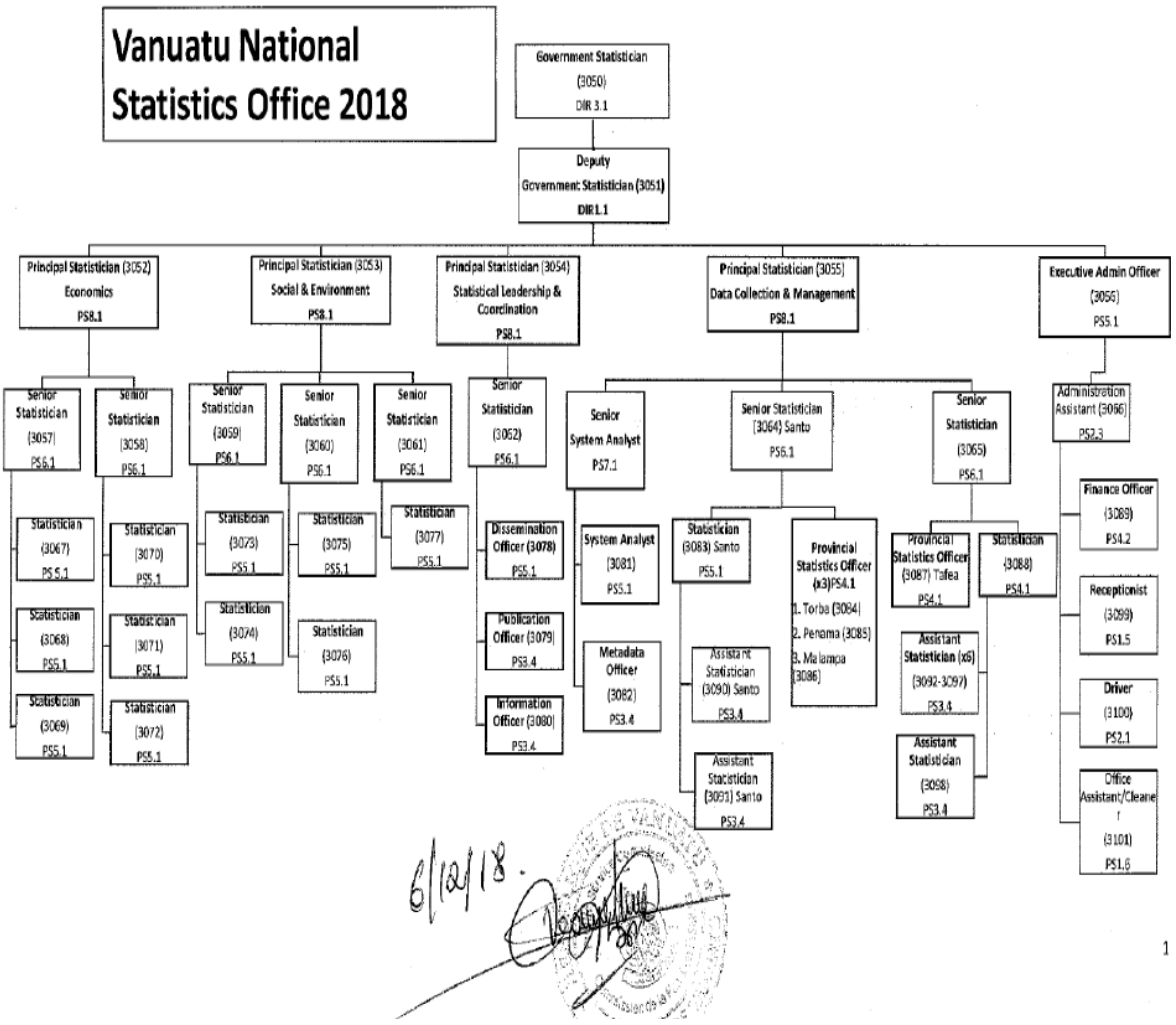
Marcus Scheiblecker	PFTAC	Economic	n/a

Annex 2. United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics[15]

Principle 1	Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation. To this end, official statistics that meet the test of practical utility are to be compiled and made available on an impartial basis by official statistical agencies to honor citizens' entitlement to public information.
Principle 2	To retain trust in official statistics, the statistical agencies need to decide according to strictly professional considerations, including scientific principles and professional ethics, on the methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data.
Principle 3	To facilitate a correct interpretation of the data, the statistical agencies are to present information according to scientific standards on the sources, methods and procedures of the statistics.
Principle 4	The statistical agencies are entitled to comment on erroneous interpretation and misuse of statistics.
Principle 5	Data for statistical purposes may be drawn from all types of sources, be they statistical surveys or administrative records. Statistical agencies are to choose the source with regard to quality, timeliness, costs and the burden on respondents.
Principle 6	Individual data collected by statistical agencies for statistical compilation, whether they refer to natural or legal persons, are to be strictly confidential and used exclusively for statistical purposes.
Principle 7	The laws, regulations and measures under which the statistical systems operate are to be made public.
Principle 8	Coordination among statistical agencies within countries is essential to achieve consistency and efficiency in the statistical system.
Principle 9	The use by statistical agencies in each country of international concepts, classifications and methods promotes the consistency and efficiency of statistical systems at all official levels.
Principle 10	Bilateral and multilateral cooperation in statistics contributes to the improvement of systems of official statistics in all countries.

[15] http://unstats.un.org/unsd/dnss/gp/fundprinciples.aspx

Annex 3. VBoS approved organisational structure, 2018



Annex 4. Strategic actions and implementation plan, 2024–2028

Development need	Actions required	Agencies (lead agency in bold)	Priority	Timing	Performance indicator	Budget/timing					
						Total	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Strategic objective 1. Improved coordination and management of the VSS within a robust institutional environment											
1.1. A sound policy and legislative framework that empowers the VSS to deliver the required changes	1.1.1. Review and update the Statistics Act to address information and policy needs and ensure that agencies have the authority to collect and disseminate statistical information	**VBoS**	2	2025	Review completed by Dec 2021. Legislation amended and enacted by December 2025						
	1.1.2. Publish the Statistics Act on the VBoS website	**VBoS**	1	Dec 2025	Statistics Act published on VBoS website by Dec 2025						
1.2. Strengthen partnerships, improve collaboration, coordination, consultation between clients, stakeholders, and donors	1.2.1. Establish the SAC according to provisions in the revised Statistics Act and ensure that it meets at least every 6 months	**VBoS,** Minister	1	Sep 2024	SAC established by Sep 2024 2 meetings per year						
	1.2.2. Establish VSS Steering Committee to oversee the statistical work programme, methodologies, and quality improvements	**VBoS**	1	July 2025	SC established by July 2025 Meetings held in March and November						
	1.2.3. Establish sector technical working groups (economic, society, environment) to advise on statistical needs and support the coordination and supply of data	**VBoS**	2	June 2025	2 sector TWGs established by Dec 2024, 3 by June 2025 4 meetings per year						
	1.2.4. VSS provide secretariat to support the SAC and other committees	**VBoS**	1	ongoing	Meetings organised and minutes published on VBoS website						
	1.2.5. Continue to establish MOUs with key data suppliers	**VBoS,** others	2	ongoing	2 MOUs per year						
	1.2.6. Initiate discussions for a development partner (donor) group for official statistics	VBoS, **MFEM**	2	Dec 2024	1 meeting per year						
1.3. Ensure that the VBoS is funded adequately to enable it to lead and coordinate the VSS	1.3.1. VBoS receives adequate funding so it can deliver the statistical work programme (at national and province level) and build staff capacity throughout the VSS	**VBoS,** MFEM	1	ongoing	SAC endorses and Govt agrees to VBoS funds requested in the annual budget						

Development need	Actions required	Agencies (lead agency in bold)	Priority	Timing	Performance indicator	Budget/timing					
						Total	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Strategic objective 2. Better communication, access, and use											
2.1. Improve the supply of statistics through a variety of media and formats, including the VBoS website	2.1.1. Centralise access to national statistics, including the core national NSDP dataset and associated documentation, on the VBoS website	**VBoS**	1	Sep 2024	Publish NSDP indicators by Sep 2024						
	2.1.2. Redesign the VBoS website to improve layout, navigation and usability and extend the coverage of its web databases, use more data visualization tools and infographics	**VBoS**	1	Dec 2024	4 new datasets (or links) added annually						
	2.1.3. Publish statistics in MS-Excel spreadsheets	**VBoS**	1	From Dec 2024	4 new spreadsheets added annually						
	2.1.4. Publish VBoS and VSS policy documents, methodologies and metadata, meeting minutes, data requests and user feedback	**VBoS**	2	ongoing	80% outputs have metadata by Dec 2024, 90% by Dec 2025, 95% by Dec 2026. Committee meeting minutes published.						
	2.1.5. Maintain and publish a single release calendar for the VSS on the VBoS website	**VBoS**, VSS	2	2026	Calendar published by Dec 2026						
	2.1.6. VBoS in consultation with users, develop a programme to promote and facilitate safe access to microdata	**VBoS**, VSS	3	2027	Users can access microdata from Jan 2027 (after legislation passed)						
	2.1.7. Monitor the use of official statistics through web traffic analytics and regular user satisfaction surveys	**VBoS**	2	2024	Web traffic analytics established by Dec 2024						
2.2. Improved general/public awareness of the value and use of statistics for evidence-based decision making	2.2.1. Develop a statistical literacy plan and programme of activities for statistics users, business and household respondents, teachers, and students	**VBoS**	2	2024	Plan developed by Sep 2024						
	2.2.2. Improve media relations, improve statistical capability of media through pre-release sessions, release briefings about interpretation and presentation of statistical release	**VBoS,** VSS	1	ongoing	X briefings per year						

Development need	Actions required	Agencies (lead agency in bold)	Priority	Timing	Performance indicator	Budget/timing					
						Total	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
	2.2.3. Use social media to promote and disseminate statistics	**VBoS,** VSS	1	ongoing	Facebook and other media regularly updated						
	2.2.4. VBoS to coordinate two-yearly celebration of Statistics Day	**VBoS,** VSS	2	biennial	SDs held in Sep 2025, 2027						
	2.2.5. VBoS to develop training programme for users and suppliers of statistics. This may include regular media briefings, presentations, and workshops	**VBoS,** VSS	2	Sep 2025	Training to coincide with Statistics Day						
Strategic objective 3. Effectively manage resources											
3.1. Strengthen VSNO capacity to provide statistics	3.1.1. VBoS to work towards adopting the GAMSO principles and practices	**VBoS**	2	ongoing	Statistical capability plan approved by June 2025						
3.2. Improve staff retention and career opportunities throughout the VSS	3.2.1. Ensure there are adequate numbers of people receiving adequate remuneration who are developing their skills in collecting, analysing, and disseminating statistics	**VBoS PSC**	1	ongoing	90% positions filled Staff adequately rewarded for good performance						
	3.2.2. Ensure that job descriptions include core competencies for each job	**VBoS**	1	ongoing	JDs reviewed and regularly updated						
	3.2.3. Ensure each staff member has an annual work performance assessment and development plan	**VBoS**	1	2025	95% staff assessments completed by end of each year						
3.3. Provide learning and development opportunities	3.3.1. Identify career pathways and support staff mobility within the VBoS and other agencies. Support opportunities to engage in regional training activities	**VBoS**	2	2025	Process for secondments established by June 2025						
	3.3.2. Develop and implement an induction training programme for newly recruited employees	**VBoS**	1	2024	Induction training in place by Dec 2024						
	3.3.3. Develop ongoing mentoring and coaching programmes	**VBoS**	1	ongoing	Each new staff allocated a mentor						

Development need	Actions required	Agencies (lead agency in bold)	Priority	Timing	Performance indicator	Budget/timing					
						Total	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
	3.3.4. VBoS develop and deliver a training programme for building statistical literacy, ICT, and managerial skills with the assistance from PSC and educational organisations. Maximise the use of on-line learning.	**VBoS,** PSC	2	2025	6 trainings per year Catalogue of on-line learning developed by Sep 2025						
	3.3.5. Improve capacity to develop visualisations and use GIS technology	**VBoS,** others	2	ongoing	X staff receive training each year						
	3.3.6. Collaborate with other NSOs and international organisations	**VBoS**	1	ongoing	X staff participate in overseas attachments and workshops						
3.4. Efficient ICT systems	3.4.1. Review current systems, networks, software, databases, backup processes, etc, to ensure systems will support VSS needs	**VBoS**	1	annually	Annual assessment and funding of new/replacement equipment VBoS budget includes funding to update hardware and software						
3.5. Adopt new technologies and methods	3.5.1. Increase use of CAPI devices (e.g. mobile phones, fee web-based software) to improve the efficiency and accuracy of census and survey data collection	**VBoS,** VSS	1	2024	VBoS has sufficient devices and other resources for VSS use VBoS budget includes funding for devices						
	3.5.2. Explore opportunities to exploit big data	**VBoS,** VSS	2	2026	Research report presented to SAC by June 2026						
3.6. Better integration and standardisation of statistical processes & data storage, improved security of personal data in up-to-date ICT systems	3.6.1. Plan for a gradual implementation of the GSBPM in order to improve process management, standardization, documentation and efficiency of business processes	**VBoS**	3	2027	Implementation plan presented to SAC by June 2025. GSBPM gradually implemented from 2025.						
3.7. Sound data and information management	3.7.1. Review/update or establish protocols for collection, classification, quality assurance, sharing and dissemination of statistics	**VBoS,** VSS	2	2026	International/Pacific classifications implemented in 90% of collections by Dec 2025 2 protocols per year						
	3.7.2. Use tools from Data Documentation Initiative to document processes	**VBoS**	2	2026	DDI established and used in above processes/collections						

Development need	Actions required	Agencies (lead agency in bold)	Priority	Timing	Performance indicator	Budget/timing					
						Total	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Strategic objective 4. Improved quality and range of statistics to better meet users' needs											
4.1. Provide information needed to develop and monitor policies for Vanuatu and meet regional and international requirements	4.1.1. Regular monitoring and review of statistics and indicators required for NSDP, SDGS and other frameworks	**VBoS,** PMO, VSS	2	Annual	Annual scan of government policies. Biennial update/addition of new indicators						
	4.1.2. VBoS to develop and monitor integrated survey programme (households, businesses, schools, health facilities etc) for VSS to be monitored and evaluated by VSS Steering Committee	**VBoS,** VSS	1	2025-28	Report prepared and evaluated by VSS Steering Committee						
4.2. Improved supply of statistics	4.2.1. Improve the timely availability, quality, coverage, transparency and usefulness of national and provincial statistics and indicators, especially the production strategies for specific subject matter areas listed below	**VBoS,** VSS	1	Ongoing	85% of VSS outputs published within specified timeframe by Dec 2022, 95% by Dec 2023						
4.3. Improved supply of small area statistics	4.3.1. Develop and publish more statistical information and indicators at lower geographic levels, e.g. Census Area Council profiles and Constitutional Profiles, Provincial GDP	**VBoS,** VSS	2	2025-28	Publish 2020 Area Council profiles and Constitutional Profiles by Dec 2022. Publish Provincial GDP by Dec 2024						
	4.3.2. Develop a programme of work to maximise use of GIS technologies	**VBoS,** VSS	2	ongoing	Licenses and training provided for GIS technicians.						
4.4. Programme of continuous improvement in data quality based on international best practice and standards	4.4.1. Regularly assess and publish quality dimensions (relevance, accuracy, timeliness, accessibility, comparability, and coherence) of each statistical output	**VBoS,** VSS	2	2025 onwards	IMF DQAF used in 4 quality assessments per year						

Annex 5. Statistics production activities and improvements, 2024–2028

Development need	Data development actions	Agencies (lead in bold)	Priority	Timing	Performance indicator/output	Budget					
						Total	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Macroeconomic statistics											
6.1. Improve coverage, timeliness, and methodological soundness of the National Accounts (GDP) Note that the completion of these developments is reliant on improvements in source data as listed in industry and sector statistics below.	6.1.1. Compile and publish annual GDP	**VBoS**	1	Ongoing	Publish within 9 months*						
	6.1.2. Re-base and update national accounts to 2008 SNA	**VBoS**	1	2024-26	Publish by June 2026						
	6.1.3. Develop quarterly GDP	**VBoS**	2	2024-27	Publish by June 2027						
	6.1.4. Develop annual GDP by province	**VBoS**	3	2026-27	Publish by Dec 2027						
	6.1.5. Develop tourism satellite account	**VBoS**	3	2027-28	Publish by Dec 2028						
	6.1.6. Develop annual Environmental accounts in the SEEA framework (see also environment statistics below)	**VBoS**	3	2027-28	Publish by Dec 2028						
6.2. Improve coverage, timeliness, and methodological soundness of CPI	6.2.1. Compile and publish quarterly CPI statistics	**VBoS**	1	Ongoing	Publish within 2 months*						
	6.2.2. Improve methodology, collection, and processing system	**VBoS**	1	2024-26	Improvements completed by March 2026						
	6.2.3. Update CPI regimen (basket)	**VBoS**	1	2024-26	Publish by Jun 2026						
	6.2.4. (Depending on the outcome of the NSDP and Census) extend coverage to other provinces	**VBoS**	2	2026	Publish by Dec 2026						
6.3. Develop other indexes	6.3.1. Review users' needs for other prices indexes, e.g. government wage index, producers, trade indexes	**VBoS**	2	2024-28	Report presented to VSS Steering Committee						
	6.3.2. Commence programme to develop new indexes	**VBoS**, DCIR	3	2028							
6.4. Improve coverage, timeliness, and methodological soundness of Government Finance Statistics (GFS)	6.4.1. Compile and publish monthly and annual GFS according to GFS 2014 on VBoS website and supply data to GFS Yearbook	**DoFT**	2	Ongoing	Publish within 6 months*						
	6.4.2. Publish Provincial Government	**DoFT**	1	2024-25	Publish by Dec 2025						
	6.4.3. Include local government, extrabudgetary units	DoFT	2	2025-26	Publish by Dec 2026						
	6.4.4. Include financial corporations	**DoFT**	2	2026-28	Publish by Dec 2028						
	6.4.5. Include public corporations/state-owned enterprises	**DoFT**	3	2026-28	Publish by Dec 2028						
6.5. Improve coverage, timeliness, and	6.5.1. Compile and publish annual and quarterly BOP according to BPM6 on RBV and VBoS	**RBV**	1	ongoing	Publish within 6 months*						

Development need	Data development actions	Agencies (lead in bold)	Priority	Timing	Performance indicator/output	Budget					
						Total	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
methodological soundness of **Balance of Payments (BOP)**	websites, and on the e-GDDS National Summary of Data page				Publish on e-GDDS page by December 2024						
	6.5.2. Improve scope and coverage of BOP surveys	**RBV**	2	2025							
	6.5.3. Develop BOP projections and estimates	**RBV**	2	2025	Publish by Dec 2025						
	6.5.4. Transition responsibility of BOP from RBV to VBoS	RBV=> VBoS	3	2028	Complete by Dec 2028						
6.6. Improve coverage, timeliness, and methodological soundness of **Monetary and finance statistics**	6.6.1. Compile and publish quarterly and annual monetary and finance statistics according to MFSM5	RBV	1	ongoing	Publish within 6 months (3 months* by Dec 2025)						
	6.6.2. Include other financial corporations' (CCVL, VNPF, VADB) statistics	RBV	2	2025	Publish by Dec 2025						
	6.6.3. Improvements to Financial Access Survey	RBV	2	2025	Publish by Dec 2025						
	6.6.4. Quality assessment and publish metadata	RBV	2	2025	Publish by Dec 2025						
	6.6.5. Publish remaining other financial corporations	RBV	2	2028	Publish by Dec 2028						
	6.6.6. Examine feasibility of producing financial soundness indicators (FSI)	RBV	3	2027	Plan developed by Dec 2027						
	6.6.7. Examine feasibility of producing financial statistics on a balance sheet approach	RBV	3	2027	Plan developed by Dec 2027						
Industry and sector statistics											
6.7. Maximise the use of **administrative data**	6.7.1. Develop strategy and methodology for using administrative data to improve the business register and minimise direct data collection from businesses	**VBoS**	1	2024	Report by Dec 2024						
6.8. Formalise arrangements for **supply of administrative data** through MOUs and supply agreements	6.8.1. Formal data supply agreement for customs, immigration, and tax data from DCIR	VBoS DCIR	1	2025	Data supply agreement signed by Dec 2025						
	6.8.2. MOU for supply data from VNPF	VBoS VNPF	1	2025	MOU signed by Dec 2025						
	6.8.3. MOU for supply of company and business registrations from Vanuatu Financial Services Commission (VFSC)	VBoS VFSC	1	2025	MOU signed by Dec 2025						
6.9. Improve coverage and quality of the **VBoS business register**	6.9.1. Improve business register coverage through integration of BR, VBoS data collections, customs, tax, NPF, company and business licence, and other administrative data	**VBoS**	1	2025-27	Administrative datasets added to business register meet quality and coverage requirements						
	6.10.1. Establish users' requirements for published industry statistics - GDP,	**VBoS, users**	1	2024	Report presented to VSS Steering Committee by Dec 2024						

Development need	Data development actions	Agencies (lead in bold)	Priority	Timing	Performance indicator/output	Budget					
						Total	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
6.10. Improve coverage of **business financial statistics**	manufacturing, retail trade, accommodation, etc										
	6.10.2. Conduct business survey/census	**VBoS**	1	2024-25	Results meet quality and coverage (response rate, etc) standards						
	6.10.3. Develop "Omnibus" survey of Vanuatu's largest businesses to collect data for NA and BOP (including trade in services)	**VBoS**	2	2025-26	Survey implemented by Mar 2025						
	6.10.4. Develop and implement a programme of surveys to collect additional data not available from tax data, including small scale surveys to collect data on the informal sector, e.g. street vendor survey, and the non-profit sector	**VBoS**	2	2026-27	Results meet quality and coverage (response rate, etc) standards						
	6.10.5. Regular publication of quarterly and annual surveys e.g. industry production by volume and value	**VBoS**	3	2027	Results meet quality and timeliness standards						
6.11. Develop and publish quarterly **investment/ construction statistics**	6.11.1. Examine feasibility of collating and publishing construction permits data for all provinces	MLNR VBoS	2	2025	If feasible, publish by Dec 2026						
	6.11.2. VBoS support DSPPAC to collect quarterly building activity for major donor-funded projects	VBoS **DSPPAC** VPMU	2	2025	Results used in GDP estimates by Dec 2025						
	6.11.3. Regular publication of quarterly construction statistics	VBoS	3	2026	Publish by Dec 2026						
6.12. Improve **utilities and infrastructure statistics**	6.12.1. See environment statistics section below for electricity, water, and waste.										
	6.12.2. Publish annual Telecommunications Sector Report	TRBR	1	ongoing	Publish within 6 months						
	6.12.3. Compile and publish annual utilities and infrastructure statistics (RBV, TRBR, MIPU, ports and other data collated into Excel spreadsheet and report)	VBoS	3	2026	Publish by Dec 2026						
6.13. Improve access to timely **tourism statistics**	6.13.1. Establish requirements for data for tourism satellite account	VBoS	1	2024	Report by Dec 2024						
	6.13.2. Improve system and processes to ensure all cards are captured within ASYCUDA	DCIR, VBoS	1	2024	Improvements completed by Dec 2024						
	6.13.3. Include destination (island) question on arrivals card for visitors	VBoS, DVIPS	1	2025	Determine whether feasible by Dec 2025						

Development need	Data development actions	Agencies (lead in bold)	Priority	Timing	Performance indicator/output	Budget					
						Total	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
	6.13.4. Improve timeliness of International Arrival Statistics to within two months of the end of the reference month	VBoS	2	2025	Publication meets timeliness standard						
	6.13.5. Resume International Visitor Survey when borders reopen	NZTRI, TD	1	2024-25	Results meet quality and timeliness standards						
	6.13.6. Develop and publish Accommodation occupancy rate survey	VBoS, ?? MTTCNVB	3	2025-26	Results meet quality and timeliness standards						
6.14. Improve timeliness, quality and coverage of **international trade statistics**	6.14.1. Resume publication of monthly IMTS	VBoS	1	2024	Results meet quality and timeliness standards (within six weeks of the end of the reference month)						
	6.14.2. Improvements to trade in services statistics for BoP (see omnibus survey action 6.10.3)	**VBoS** RBV	1	2025-26	Survey implemented by Mar 2026						
6.15. Improve access to **labour force and employment statistics**	6.15.1. Subject to securing funding, develop and conduct Labour Force Survey	VBoS	1	2025	Results meet quality and timeliness standards						
	6.15.2. Improve/develop collections and systems to enable quarterly supply of employment and wage data to VBoS (see also 6.8.2. to develop MOU between VNPF and VBoS)	VNPF	2	2026	Supplied to VBoS within six weeks of the end of the reference month						
	6.15.3. Compile and publish annual labour supply and demand statistics from survey and administrative data sources	VBoS	2	2027	Publish by Dec 2027						
6.16. Improve coverage of **Official Development Assistance (ODA) statistics**	6.16.1. Develop ODA database to include aid in-kind and funds disbursed outside FMIS	**DSPPAC,** DoFT, VBoS	2	2024	Database established by Dec 2021						
	6.16.2. Conduct quarterly donor survey of expenditure by project	**DSPPAC,** VBoS, VPMU	2	2025	Publish by June 2025						
	6.16.3. Publish annual ODA statistics	**DoFT**	2	2024	ODA by country and project included in 2026 Vanuatu budget estimates						

Development need	Data development actions	Agencies (lead in bold)	Priority	Timing	Performance indicator/output	Budget					
						Total	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Environmental statistics											
6.17. VBoS leads the implementation of activities to improve coverage of, and access to, **environmental statistics**	6.17.1. Implement ESNAR recommendations	**VBoS**	2	ongoing							
	6.17.2. Establish needs and develop statistical framework	VBoS, **DoE,PaC**, PMO	2	2025	Framework presented to SAC by Jun 2025						
	6.17.3. Develop collection methodology and collect data (through planned censuses and surveys)	VBoS	2	2025	Implementation plan presented to VSS Steering Committee by June 2025						
	6.17.4. Develop a central repository for environmental data within VBoS	**VBoS**, DoE,PaC, PMO	2	2025	Repository established by Dec 2025						
	6.17.5. Develop and populate environmental statistics database and webpage	**VBoS**	2	2025	Website established by Dec 2025						
	6.17.6. Use GIS/satellite technology to provide observational data to track frequently changing environment	**VBoS, MLNRGM**	1	ongoing							
6.18. Improve coverage of, and access to, **climate change and disaster risk reduction statistics**	6.18.1. Continue to maintain weather, climate, and geo-hazards data	**VMGD**	1	ongoing	VMGD website updated maintained daily						
	6.18.2. Develop and endorse disaster-related statistics plan	**NDMO,** VMGD, VBoS	1	2024	Plan endorsed by VSS Steering Committee by Dec 2024						
	6.18.3. Develop and populate disaster-related statistics database and webpage (to sit under environment page)	**VBoS**, NDMO	1	2024	Database/webpage established by Dec 2025						
	6.18.4. Conduct post-disaster surveys and assessments (PDA) after each significant disaster occurrence	**VBoS, NDMO**	2	ongoing	PDA published within 6 months of disaster occurrence						
6.19. Improve **land statistics**	6.19.1. Update and produce regular land coverage maps, in consultation with, and support of SPC	**MLNRGM**	2	2027	ESNAR recommendation - currently unfunded						
	6.19.2. Develop and publish Land Accounts	VBoS	3	2028	Publish by Dec 2028						
6.20. Improve **water statistics**	6.20.1. Identify data gaps and develop data sources for missing data	**VBoS**	1	2024	Report presented to VSS Steering Committee by Dec 2024						
	6.20.2. Collate, integrate, and validate water data from suppliers, businesses, and domestic users for use in SEEA Water Account	**VBoS, URA**	2	2025	Existing data obtained by Dec 2021 New data obtained by June 2025						
	6.20.3. Develop and publish Water Account	**VBoS**	2	2025	Publish by Dec 2025						
6.21. Improve **energy statistics**	6.21.1. Compile and publish statistics required for Energy Road Map monitoring and evaluation	**DoE**, VBoS	1	ongoing	Quantitative data published in annual report to Minister of Climate Change and the Energy Task Force						

Development need	Data development actions	Agencies (lead in bold)	Priority	Timing	Performance indicator/output	Budget					
						Total	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
	6.21.2. Collect household energy use in HIES (5-yearly)	**VBoS**	2	2027	Results meet quality and timeliness standards						
	6.21.3. Develop and publish Energy Account	**VBoS**	2	2026	Publish by Dec 2026						
6.22. Improve **solid waste statistics**	6.22.1. Determine data gaps and feasibility of collecting information on illegal dumping, waste generated and disposed, exports of waste	**VBoS,** URA	3	2026	Report presented to VSS Steering Committee by June 2026						
	6.22.2. Survey to collect above data	**VBoS**	3	2026	Survey initiated by July 2026						
	6.22.3. Develop and publish Waste Account	**VBoS**	3	2027	Publish by Dec 2027						
6.23. Improve capacity to collect, compile and provide access to **agriculture, forestry, livestock, fisheries, and biosecurity statistics**	6.23.1. Develop and agree requirements and implementation plan via Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Rural Statistics (SPARS)	**MALFFB**, VBoS, PMO (seek support from FAO)	1	2025-26	SPAR presented to SAC by Dec 2026						
	6.23.2. Develop and conduct Agriculture Census	**MALFFB,** VBoS	1	2025	Results meet quality and coverage standards Publish results by Dec 2026						
	6.23.3. Improvements to MALFFB data collections (including market survey)	**MALFFB**	2	ongoing	VBoS staff to support MALFFB capacity building						
	6.23.4. Develop/improve fisheries data management system	**MALFFB**	2	ongoing							
	6.23.5. Compile and publish annual agriculture statistics report	**VBoS**, MALFFB	3	2027	Publish by Dec 2027						
Social sector statistics											
6.24. Improve access to information required to monitor **NSDP and SDGs**	6.24.1.Develop database for NSDP dataset	**VBoS** DSPPAC	1	2024-25							
	6.24.2.Publish results of 2019/20 NSDP Baseline survey (indicators required for NSDP/SDG) monitoring and evaluation)	**VBoS**	1	2024	Publish by Sep 2024						
6.25. Improve access to timely and reliable **population and demographic indicators**	6.25.1.Complete processing, tabulation, analysis, and publish 2020 Census of Population and Housing	**VBoS**	1	2024-25	Census summary report published by Dec 2024						
	6.25.2.Analyse and publish Area council profile and constituency profiles	VBoS	1	2024-25	Publish by Dec 2025						
	6.25.3.Conduct HIES (NSDP Baseline Survey) for wellbeing, poverty and living conditions statistics	**VBoS** DSPPAC	2	2027	Results meet quality standards. Publish within 12 months						
6.26. Improve access to timely statistics about **wellbeing, poverty and living conditions**	6.26.1.Develop, analyse, and publish indicators and analytical reports using data derived from Census, HIES and other survey data, as part of the NSDP monitoring and evaluation framework	**VBoS** DSPPAC	2	2028	Poverty report published by Dec 2028						

Development need	Data development actions	Agencies (lead in bold)	Priority	Timing	Performance indicator/output	Budget					
						Total	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
6.27. Improve access to timely and reliable **population estimates** and data to support these estimates	6.27.1. Continue to implement programme to improve **vital statistics** and develop CVRS system	**MoIA**, MoH, VBoS	1	ongoing	10% increase in coverage per year						
	6.27.2. Continue program to improve access to **health facilities' HIS systems** to use for demographic indicators	**MoH,** MoIA, VBoS	1	ongoing	Clean annual dataset for reconciliation with CVRS						
	6.27.3. Develop and support Population registry	**VBoS CRVS**	1	2025-26	Population registry established by Dec 2026						
	6.27.4. Compile, analyse, and publish annual vital statistics (births and migration)	**VBoS**	2	2025	Publish 2024 results by June 2025, annually within 6 months after that						
	6.27.5. Develop annual sub-national population estimates and projections (reconcile CVRS with next NPHC)	**VBoS**	3	2028	Publish by Dec 2028						
6.28. Improve access to timely and reliable **education, numeracy, and literacy statistics**	6.28.1. Continue to implement programme to improve range and coverage of education statistics from ECCE to post-secondary and tertiary and publish annually	**MoET**, VQA, VBoS, DoT	1	ongoing annual	Publish within 6 months						
	6.28.2. Create an OV Examination Module to record and report on assessment and examination data	**MoET** VBoS	2	2025	Examination module completed by Dec 2025						
	6.28.3. Improve the match between enrolments to birth certificate numbers in OV	**MoET CRVS**	2	2025	95% of new enrolments have birth certificate numbers by Jun 2025						
	6.28.4. Improve measures for assessing literacy and numeracy rates	**MoET, VBoS**	2	2026/27	To be determined						
6.29. Improve access to timely and reliable **health statistics**	6.29.1. Continue to improve statistics collected from all health facilities' HIS systems and publish annually	**MoH**	1	ongoing							
	6.29.2. Conduct, analyse, and publish Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS)/ Demographic Health Survey	**VBoS**, MOH UNICEF, WHO	1	2024	Results published by Dec 2025						
	6.29.3. Develop and conduct NCD Steps Survey	**MoH, WHO,** VBoS	1	2025	Results published by Dec 2026						
	6.29.4. Develop and conduct Malaria Cluster Survey	**MoH,** VBoS	1	2028	Results published by Dec 2029						
6.30. Improve access to timely and reliable **gender statistics**	6.30.1. Develop a plan and timetable to collect and publish indicators required for monitoring and evaluation of national gender policy	**DoWA,** VBoS, PMO, NGOs	1	Dec 2024	2020 Gender Monograph published by Sep 2025						

Development need	Data development actions	Agencies (lead in bold)	Priority	Timing	Performance indicator/output	Budget					
						Total	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
6.31. Improve access to timely and reliable **children and youth statistics**	6.31.1. Develop a plan and timetable to develop reporting systems and publish indicators required for monitoring and evaluation of children's and youth policies	**MJCS**, MYSD, VBoS, NGOs	1	Dec 2024							
	6.31.2. Publish Youth Monograph	**VBoS**	1	2024	2020 Youth Monograph published by Sep 2024						
6.32. Improve access to timely and reliable **disability statistics**	6.32.1. Develop framework to integrate data from various sources and publish a report on disability issues	MJCS, VBoS	2	2027							
	6.32.2. Conduct and disseminate results from a Rapid Assessment Disability Survey	VBoS	2	2027	Results published by Dec 2027						
6.33. Improve access to timely and reliable **human rights statistics**	6.33.1. Develop statistics framework and develop indicators for reporting on Vanuatu human rights standards and commitments	**VBoS**, MJCS, PMO, MFAT	2	2028	Report to SAC by Dec 2027						
6.34. Improve access to timely and reliable crime and justice statistics	6.34.1. Continue to implement program to improve statistics collected across the law and justice sector including statistics about women and children subjected to violence	**MJCS**, VBoS, VPF, VCS, NGOs	1	ongoing							
	6.34.2. Develop coordinated system for centralised access to regular statistical data on crime and justice	**MJCS**, VBoS, VPF, VCS	1	2026/27	Established and operating by December 2027						
	6.34.3. Compile and publish annual Crime and Justice Statistics Report	**MJCS, VBoS, VPF, VCS**		2028	Publish annually within 6 months of the end of the reference year						
	6.34.4. Develop and conduct Victimisation Survey	**MoJCS, MoIA,** VBoS	2	2026	Results published by Dec 2026						
6.35. Improve access to timely and reliable **wellbeing statistics**	6.35.1. Prepare well-being questionnaire module and tabulation plan prior to next scheduled HIES	**VBoS**, VNCC members	2	2028							
6.36. Improved management of **culture sector** data	6.36.1. Engage members of VNCC in assessing data management needs	**VBoS**	1	2024							
	6.36.2. Develop roadmap for establishment of a Cultural Information Management System	**VBoS,** VKS	1	2025							

* GDDS timeliness requirement

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