

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Vanuatu is a unitary republic with a single tier of subnational government, made up of 9 local councils (3 urban councils, and 6 provincial councils for rural areas).¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Vanuatu 2030 The People's Plan, the national sustainable development plan (NSDP) of Vanuatu for the period 2016-2030, embraces the SDGs. It is also aligned with the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

In 2014, a **Core Group** was formed to guide the drafting of the NSDP with the **Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC)** of the Prime Minister's Office acting as the secretariat. The group was composed of high-level government officials, technical officers in their respective fields and members of civil society organizations.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

A **Peer Review team** reviewed the initial draft of the 2019 VNR and provided feedback and recommendations. Public engagement was also integrated into the reporting process.

1.3 MONITORING

DSPPAC is responsible for implementing the **NSDP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework**. It produces the **Annual Development Report (ADR)**, which provides an annual update on the progress of the plan. The **NSDP Final Technical Report**, also produced by DSPPAC, provides more in-depth information regarding the ownership and process of designing the NSDP and enduring the integration of the SDGs.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

In Vanuatu, as in other countries such as Timor-Leste for example, **decentralization** plans have been included as part of the SDG implementation process, with the aim of modernizing the public administration (including its budgeting and planning), strengthening public services and reducing disparities at local levels. However, in recent years, Vanuatu has been severely hit by natural disasters (cyclones, climate deregulation and volcanic activity), which have hampered the implementation of such initiatives.³

The first national consultation for determining the successor of the Priorities Action Agenda (PAA) was held in 2013 in Mele Village, in the form of the National Development Symposium. Following the Mele Symposium, a high-level team was tasked to consult with all provincial government councils. There were six months of consultations, during which DSPPAC staff visited 15 locations over all six provinces.

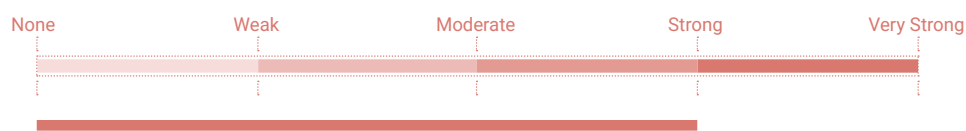
1. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Vanuatu.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23336Republic_of_Vanuatu_VNR_2019.pdf (2019)

3. UCLG, 2019, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Localization2019_EN.pdf

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



2019

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



2019

Comments: Provincial consultations were held in 2013-2014 (not necessarily on the SDGs).

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2019 VNR contains references to local councils and emphasizes the need for the national government to strengthen decentralization and their resources.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

No reference.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The **National Planning Framework** is designed to improve the implementation of the NSDP and to coordinate ministry planning and budgeting at all levels of government with a focus on improved performance and service delivery. The section of the 2019 VNR on the next steps stresses that "it is the intention of the government to continue to improve the alignment of planning with resource allocation. One way to do this will be the continued development of a Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) that links the NSDP (The Plan) with the budget process (as outlined in the NPF)" (see VNR, 2019, p. 49).

The NSDP includes an indicator on revising the annual budget going to provinces and municipalities towards operations/ programs ("Devolution of funding authority").

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The 2019 VNR emphasizes that the implementation of the **Decentralization Policy 2017-2027** brings the government closer to its citizens by providing them control over decision-making processes and allowing them to take direct participation in public service delivery.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Following the 2017 provincial elections, there was one elected female councillor plus 6 appointed by the Department of Local Authorities to represent women in each provincial council. For the municipal councils, 11 women were elected through the reserved seats arrangement, 6 out of 17 in Port Vila Municipal Council in 2018, up from 5 out of 17 in 2013, and 1 out of 14 in 2009; and 5 out of 13 women were elected in Luganville Municipal Council (2015), up from 1 out of 13 after both the 2011 and 2007 elections. There were no women elected to Lanakel Municipal Council. This increase follows the introduction of special temporary measures to increase women's participation at the municipal level, which are to run for four election cycles.⁴

4. See: https://www.clgf.org.uk/default/assets/File/Country_profiles/Vanuatu.pdf

3.2 COVID 19

Not applicable.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁵

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		10.1 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	57 (2020)
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		-
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		-
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		10.5 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		100 (2020)

⁵ The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>. More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/vut>