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SDG16 IN VANUATU

Measuring Sustainable Development Goal 16:
Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

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Executive Summary

This report seeks to assist Vanuatu with the voluntary national reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by focusing on existing and planned data to measure Goal 16. Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG16) addresses peace, justice and strong institutions. It is part of a broader initiative by the United Nations Development Programme to support in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia-Pacific. Vanuatu has been selected to pilot this initiative, with the intention to expand it across other Pacific Island countries and territories as well as other Small Island Developing States. This project involved meeting with data producers and users over 18 days in Vanuatu to determine all possible sources of data that would be useful for currently measuring SDG16.

The intention of this project is to advance conversations around the 2030 Global Agenda towards localisation, prioritisation and implementation. One of the major lessons across the Pacific region from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was that slow embrace of the agenda results in limited measurement and limited progress in achieving the goals. Of the eight MDGs, Vanuatu only achieved one goal, MDG6 relating to combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Vanuatu failed to achieve MDG7 relating to environmental sustainability, and received mixed results in all remaining goals.¹

Data availability is a fundamental first step in any discussions around measuring and implementing the SDGs. Data is crucial for measuring progress, driving advocacy and directing action to help attain the SDGs. Vanuatu, like many Small Island Developing States, face challenges in collecting accurate and timely data. Despite these challenges, Vanuatu is relatively advanced in embracing innovations in measurement. Like with many countries, there remains a disconnect between what data is collected and its impact on transparency, local ownership and accountability. This project seeks to address the important issues of data availability and data quality in Vanuatu. This is to help promote the next step in the process of implementing the SDGs: identifying what targets and indicators are useful and relevant for Vanuatu to track and determine how data can guide and inform decision making for sustainable development.

This report is split into five sections looking at:

- How SDG16 is relevant to Vanuatu. This includes reviewing how the national sustainable development plan is aligned with the SDGs.
- An overview of the different sources of data and data availability across SDG16 indicators in Vanuatu.
- A detailed evaluation of the data available for each SDG16 indicator. In order to make this project as useful as possible, it also contains recommendations around possible proxies and alternative measurements which may be more contextually relevant.
- An initial look at how the SDGs can be implemented through interim steps. This project also included a workshop in Port Vila with representative from government and civil society with tangible actions to address particular targets under both the SDGs and national priorities.
- Recommendations relating to data measurement, alternative sources, further localisation and policy recommendations.

This project has addressed only a fraction of the challenges in addressing the 2030 Global Agenda in Vanuatu. At the conclusion of this particular activity, the focus can shift away from data challenges towards how to meaningfully engage and implement the targets of the SDGs.

¹ Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Pacific Regional MDGs Tracking Report, 2015. <http://www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/embeds/file/2015%20Pacific%20Regional%20MDGs%20Tracking%20Report.pdf>

About the project:

Based on the outcome of the 'Pacific Regional Workshop on Monitoring Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16: Supporting Countries to Track Progress on Rule of Law and Access to Justice, Anti-Corruption, and Effective Institutions' held in November 2017 in Fiji on opportunities for progress implementation of SDG 16 and other associated goals, it is now proposed to undertake consultations and analysis at the national level to identify how the key outcomes of the regional workshop can be institutionalised at the national level. Vanuatu has been selected as a pilot country for this exercise based on the work already completed on a new National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) and associated Monitoring and Evaluation framework. The new NSDP has tailored SDG targets and indicators specifically to monitor the country's commitment to SDG16.

As a pilot, the Vanuatu project has addressed options for strengthening the institutional capacity for data collection and analysis for monitoring SDG16 in Vanuatu. The intention is to determine the success of this study in Vanuatu and expand it across other Pacific Island countries and territories.

This study has aligned with the following guiding principles for data collection to ensure replicability across other countries and nations:

- Replicable and sustainable: it should be an activity which can be repeated in the future with a similar methodology. This is to enable the ability to compare trends over time. To further the leadership of the Pacific region across SDG measurement, reference to developing a process that can be undertaken in different contexts would be useful. This process should be able to be applied to other SDGs and National Sustainable Development Plans, as well as other data requirements. It is recognised that connecting different initiatives is not only a worldwide issue, but also a fundamental prerequisite to locking-in significant change.
- Time and cost-effective: There are competing priorities both within the SDG framework and the National Sustainable Development Plans, but also with the competing priorities in the normal operations of government. With the increasing demand for data, any data gathering exercise needs to be efficient in order to be viable.
- Directed by internal priorities: Fundamentally, data is intended to inform policy and direct decisions. In order to do this, it needs to be data that can influence policy and hence must be relevant to internal priorities. In order for data to be effective in achieving this goal, it needs to be presented in a clear and easy-to-understand way that facilitates analysis.

This study was undertaken with three aims: to review relevant SDG16 data availability; to record data collection approaches; and to provide recommendations for further measures, contextualisation or support for meaningfully addressing the targets of SDG16 in Vanuatu. To this end, an initial desktop review of available data was undertaken, building off the study 'Measuring Peace in the Pacific - Addressing SDG16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions'² which identified the data currently available and the data challenges faced in the Pacific. This was supplemented by following up with data producers to determine what, if any, relevant data could be used to address the SDG16 targets. Meetings with government and civil society stakeholders was vital both for buy-in and to understand some of the challenges with contextualising SDG16 in Vanuatu.

This work was supported by John Ezra from the Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC) from the Prime Minister's Office. The report author, Murray Ackman, was in Port Vila from 18 July 2018 to 4 August 2018 conducting over 30 interviews with representatives from government and civil society. The initial findings of this report were presented at a workshop in Port Vila on 2 August 2018 for feedback.

Special thanks to the following organisations for their very helpful assistance and input:

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- Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination
- Department of Women's Affairs
- Financial Intelligence Unit
- Malvatumauri - the National Council of Chiefs
- Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Pacific Institute of Public Policy

² Ackman, M., Abel van Es, A., & Hyslop, D., (2018), "Measuring Peace in the Pacific - Addressing SDG16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions", Report number 56, Institute for Economics & Peace, Sydney.

- UNDP Vanuatu
- Vanuatu Christian Council
- Vanuatu National Statistics Office
- Vanuatu Ombudsman
- Vanuatu Police
- Vanuatu Women's Centre

Special thanks to Alexandra Wilde from the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre for providing feedback on a draft. Thanks also to Patrick Tuimalealifano from the UNDP Pacific Regional Office as well as Pioni Willie and Donald Wouloseje from UNDP Vanuatu for the support and guidance offered throughout the project.

If data sources for charts are not noted in the chart, then they are the author's. All photos were taken by the author.

Please note: the data and dates reported here were correct at the time of visitation to Vanuatu. Certain details, such as proposed future data collection, are subject to change.

I. The Sustainable Development Goals



What is SDG16?

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) seek to create enduring peace and security through the promotion of human rights and the rule of law.³ They expand the meaning of development beyond the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and include an increased focus on the root causes of poverty. As some countries failed to achieve the MDGs due to their susceptibility to shocks, the SDGs aim to rectify this instability by addressing issues of violence, fragility and resilience. The SDGs are a new set of 17 goals to target poverty, inequality, injustice and climate change by 2030. The SDGs reflect that conflict and instability are significant impediments for development.

Out of the 17 SDGs, Goal 16 focuses the most on “fostering peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence.” This specific goal recognises the long reaching consequences of conflict and violence for development outcomes. Not only is violence a severe hindrance for development, it can reverse many years of development gains. By prioritising SDG16, people who live in the Pacific have an opportunity to potentially enjoy a more peaceful and economically advanced society. SDG16 is dedicated to:

- Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies as part of sustainable development.
- Providing access to justice for all.
- Building effective, accountable institutions at all levels.

SDG16 acknowledges that inclusion, justice and peace are fundamental to development and that the international community recognises that strong institutions, access to justice and political and economic inclusion can and should be measured for development outcomes. Successfully addressing the drivers of violence and conflict also requires moving beyond a focus on the traditional development agenda of health, education and poverty. This means focusing on the drivers of peace, including issues of governance, inequality and institutions as well as violence reduction, as recognised within SDG16 and the SDGs more broadly. Furthermore, a key lesson from the MDGs is that effective and responsive public institutions was essential for countries to perform on the MDGs. This reinforces that SDG16 is an enabler for the other SDGs.⁴

³ <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-16-peace-justice-and-strong-institutions.html>

⁴ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0305750X17304035>

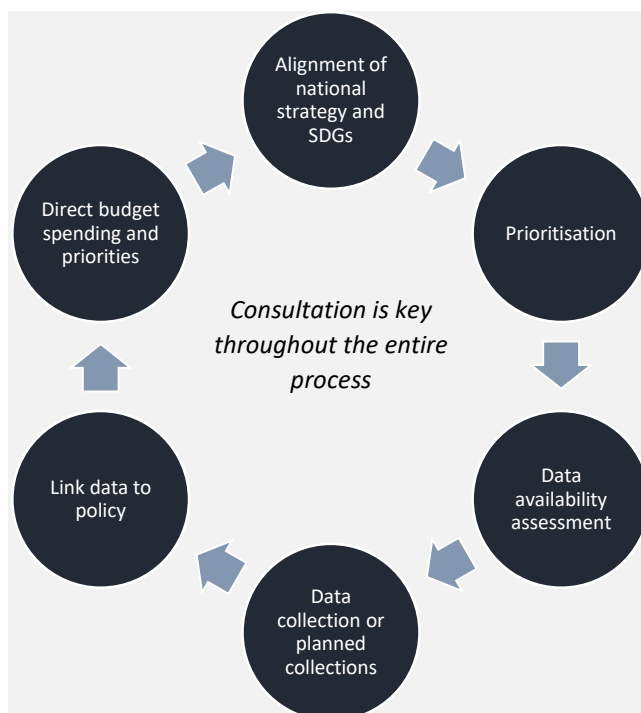
About Vanuatu:

Vanuatu is incredibly diverse in geographic spread, ethnicity and languages. The country is situated in the South Pacific between New Caledonia and Fiji. The population of around 290,000 is spread across 65 different islands with a population density of 22 people per square kilometre. Almost 80 per cent of Vanuatu's population reside in rural areas and engage in subsistence farming. There are over 200 different languages spoken along with the official languages of Bislama, English and French.

Vanuatu has faced significant environmental and political challenges. According to the Environmental Vulnerability Index devised by the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission, Vanuatu is classified as vulnerable. In 2015, the country suffered significant damage from Cyclone Pam, the most powerful cyclone to ever be recorded in the Pacific. Around 90 per cent of the subsistence crops on the islands were lost, and buildings and infrastructure suffered significant damage. There have also been reports of political instability with social unrest in Port Vila in 2007 and a political crisis involving bribery in 2015. However, Vanuatu is also a remarkably resilient country with a strong sense of national pride and identity. In 2018, Vanuatu celebrated 38 years of independence.

The process of ensuring the goals laid out in the SDGs are met is iterative and requires the interplay between measurement, policymaking and informed decision-making. This is one of the distinctions between the SDGs and the MDGs.⁵ The MDGs looked at the goals that were not being met and how they could be achieved specifically, but the SDGs aim to identify the actions that will achieve progress on the broadest number of goals in the shortest time possible. This requires constant reevaluation over progress and changing priorities. Figure 1.1 highlights how the process of aligning the goals of the SDGs with national policy is cyclical and needs to be iterated. This paper highlights how the SDGs have been aligned with the national strategy and some of the available data. However, for this to be meaningful it needs to be further aligned to policy making and inform budget spending across the Vanuatu government. This process requires consultation and buy-in from key stakeholders, including civil society. Notably, some parts of the process benefit from further consultation than others: prioritisation exercises and linking data to policy are two components where broader consultation is likely to result in greater ownership and hence legitimacy for policies.

FIGURE 1.1: PROCESS OF ALIGNING SDGS WITH NATIONAL PRIORITIES



⁵ UNDP, "UNDP policy and programme brief - UNDP support to the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development", January 2016

Why is SDG16 relevant for Vanuatu?

Achieving peace and SDG16 is critical if development gains are to be attained. Since the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were agreed upon in 2000, there has been a shift from an exclusive consideration of development measures to an examination of factors that are integral to development outcomes. In particular, there is greater recognition of the role that violence, conflict and insecurity plays in constraining development. The World Bank's 2011 World Development Report established how insecurity, violence and conflict can be both a major impediment to development while also setting back many development gains.⁶

A major finding from a review of the MDGs was that violence and conflict severely impact development progress in many countries.⁷ Low-income fragile and conflict-affected countries recorded lower levels of MDGs achievement than those low-income settings that did not experience conflict. Vanuatu had mixed success with achieving the MDGs, achieving only one of the eight goals: goal six relating to combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.⁸ It was determined to have mixed results for all other goals except for goal seven relating to ensuring environmental sustainability which was categorised as not achieved. Hence, it is timely to undertake a study on data availability as the first step to putting in place policies and assisting Vanuatu in achieving the SDGs and the 2030 Global Agenda.

Violence affects poverty, life expectancy and education outcomes, as well as factors that are essential for longer-term development, like infant mortality and access to services. Violence also greatly affects economic development by reducing foreign direct investment and investments in tourism and distorting the broader macro-economic environment. The SDGs and specifically SDG16 recognise the long reaching consequences of conflict and violence for development.

The capture of data relating to peace through SDG16 is essential to measure progress and prioritise action for increasing development and reducing fragility. The 2030 Agenda strongly emphasises a country-led approach. This means each country will develop their own sustainable development policies, plans and programs that are shaped and directed by the SDGs. Countries are encouraged to determine a range of complementary national indicators that suit their needs and statistical capacity.

Efforts to understand and address the drivers of violence and conflict will be impaired without clear and accurate data measuring progress on the SDG16 indicators. Capturing data on peace through SDG16 is essential to measure progress and prioritise action for increasing development and reducing fragility.

The importance of the SDGs has been recognised by Vanuatu through its decision to undertake a voluntary national review (VNR) in 2019. VNRs are self-reporting of a country's performance in measuring and implementing the 2030 Agenda, including any successes or challenges. They are also designed to facilitate sharing experiences to encourage and strengthen government and international support. Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Tonga and Vanuatu are all undertaking VRNs in 2019. Two other Pacific Islands have previously undertaken VRNs: Samoa in 2016 and Kiribati in 2018.

National Sustainable Development Plan

Furthermore, Vanuatu has already contextualised the SDGs through the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP). This plan builds off the Priorities and Action Agenda 2006-2015 which was directed at delivery of a just, educated, healthy and wealthy Vanuatu. This has been updated with Vanuatu 2030: The People's Plan which outlines the development goals and policy objectives required to achieve the 2030 national vision of a stable, sustainable and prosperous Vanuatu.⁹ It has been complemented by the National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 – 2030 Monitoring and

⁶ World Bank. 2011. World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development. World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/4389>

⁷ Denney, Lisa Overseas Development Institute. 2012. Security: The missing bottom of the Millennium Development Goals? Prospects for inclusion in the post-MDG development framework. <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/7788.pdf>

⁸ Pacific Island Forum Secretariat, "Pacific Regional MDGs Tracking Report", 2015

⁹ Vanuatu Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination, "National Sustainable Development Plan", <http://www.nab.vu/document/national-sustainable-development-plan>

Evaluation Framework which outlines the process for regular tracking and reporting on achieving the national vision of the NSDP.¹⁰

The NSDP has three pillars covering society, the environment and the economy. This has been outlined as the key policy document for Vanuatu for 2030, with the SDGs being viewed through the lens of the NSDP. The NSDP is Vanuatu defining what is important to Vanuatu. Due to the challenges of limited resources and capacity, the Vanuatu Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC) has decided that the NSDP will be their priority. There would need to be enhanced capacity for expanding measurement and policy focus on issues raised by the SDGs which are not covered by the NSDP. This would require support including working within existing systems in Justice, Police and the National Statistics Office. Accordingly, in the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, it is noted that SDGs indicators that align with NSDP indicators will be reported on simultaneously in the Annual Development Report.¹¹ The alignment between SDG16 and the NSDP is shown in Figure 1.2. Assessments by DSPPAC show that there is overlap with indicator measurement for ten of the 23 SDG16 indicators.

FIGURE 1.2: ALIGNMENT BETWEEN SDG16 AND NSDP

SDG	Targets	NSDP relevance
16.1	Reduce violence and violent deaths	SOC 4.2
16.2	End abuse of children	SOC 4.6
16.3	Promote rule of law and access to justice for all	SOC 5.1
16.4	Reduce bad money and organized crime	Covered by other policies
16.5	Reduce corruption and bribery	SOC 5.2
16.6	Make effective, accountable and transparent institutions	SOC 6.3
16.7	Make decision-making more responsive and inclusive	SOC 1.4, SOC 4.1, SOC 4.4, SOC 4.3, SOC 4.6, SOC 5.5
16.8	Give developing countries a bigger voice in global talks	Covered by other policies
16.9	Provide legal identity for all (birth registration)	Covered by other policies
16.10	Make access to information (FOI)	SOC 6.7
16.a	Make institutions better at stopping violence and crime	SOC 4.4
16.b	Make and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies	SOC 4.2, SOC 4.4

Source: author's assessment

In order to meet the challenges associated with measuring the NSDP, a baseline survey will take place in 2019 covering 20 per cent of the population of Vanuatu. This will occur over the course of a year to determine if there are significant seasonal changes.

Supporting the SDGs in Vanuatu

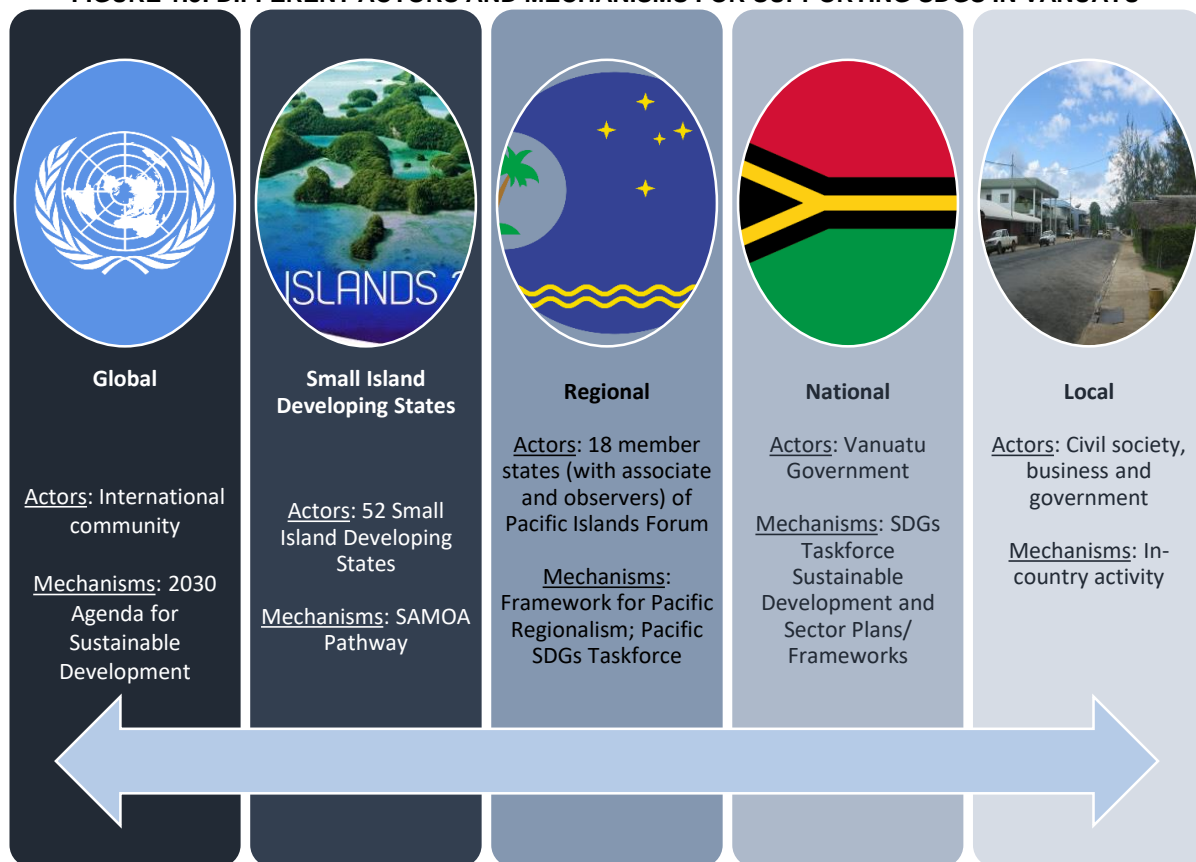
There are multiple actors and mechanisms for supporting the measurement and implementation of the SDGs in Vanuatu. Activities to promote the success of the SDGs in the Pacific include encouragement of localisation and alignment for every country, prioritisation of particular indicators across the region and development of regional frameworks for understanding the priorities for the region. Figure 1.3 reflect the different mechanisms for supporting the SDGs in Vanuatu. International support is often through aid and program assistance from donors and international organisations. There is also specific support through the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) networks. Vanuatu is a party to the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathways), which was agreed to in September 2014. This agreement focuses on the unique vulnerabilities SIDS face for sustainable development. Three goals have been stipulated in this agreement: "poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and

¹⁰ Vanuatu Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination, "National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 – 2030 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework", July 2017, https://www.gov.vu/attachments/article/26/NSDP_M_E_Framework.pdf

¹¹ Vanuatu Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination, "National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 – 2030 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework", July 2017, https://www.gov.vu/attachments/article/26/NSDP_M_E_Framework.pdf

production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development.”¹²

FIGURE 1.3: DIFFERENT ACTORS AND MECHANISMS FOR SUPPORTING SDGs IN VANUATU

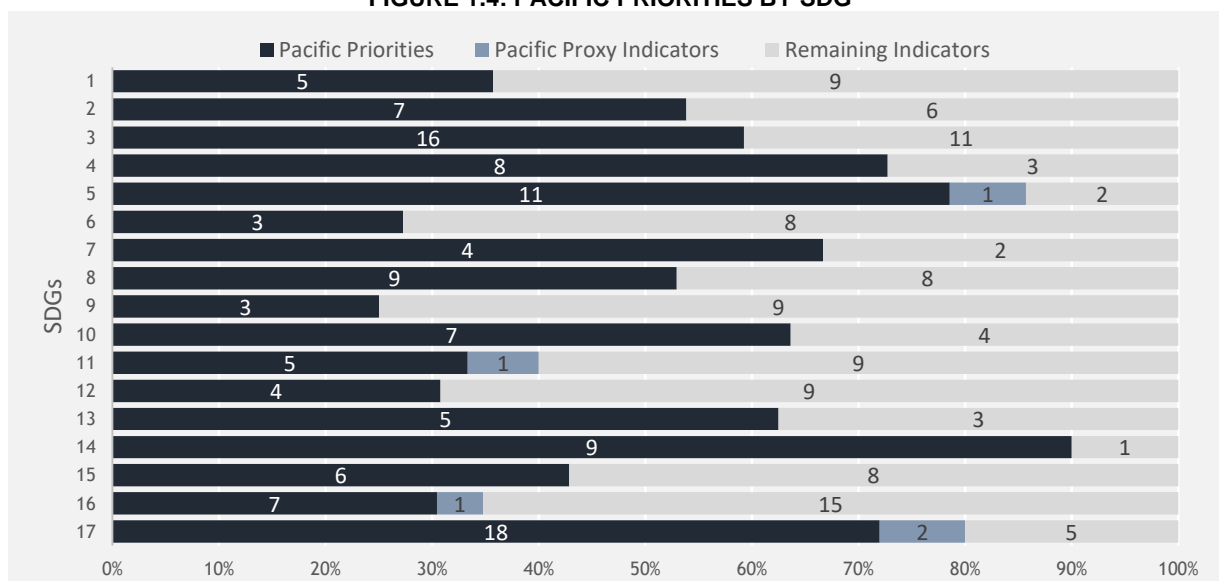


The Pacific region, through facilitating groups Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) and the Pacific Community (SPC), has established the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development to assist and support Pacific Islands in the 2030 Agenda. The Pacific SDG Taskforce, which was created to develop the roadmap, is also responsible for implementing the roadmap. The taskforce has facilitated a process of prioritising indicators across the region, as shown in Figure 1.4. This includes five Pacific Proxy Indicators modified from the global definition. There were 132 indicators selected by the Pacific SDG Taskforce from the 244 indicators in the SDGs.¹³ The goals with the biggest proportional coverage are SDG5 (which relates to the achievement of gender equality and empower all women and girls) and SDG14 (which relates to the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development). These are unsurprising priorities of the region given high rates of violence against women and the threat posed by climate change. The goals which have the least relative coverage are SDG6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG12 (responsible consumption and production) and SDG16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). The SDG16 indicators which have been prioritised are listed in Figure 1.5 below.

¹² UN Conference on Small Island Developing States, “Samoa Pathway – outcome document”, 2014. <http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?menu=1537>

¹³ Pacific Community, “Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific”, 2018. <https://sdd.spc.int/en/news/latest-news/171-sdgs-in-the-pacific-booklet>

FIGURE 1.4: PACIFIC PRIORITIES BY SDG



Vanuatu is aligned with the subset of SDG16 indicators selected by the Pacific SDG Taskforce as part of the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development. This is shown in Figure 1.5. There is data which currently exists or is planned to be collected through the NSDP baseline survey across the selected indicators. Furthermore, there is alignment with the NSDP across the indicators for all but one indicator, 16.9.1. This indicator, looking at the registration of births, is covered by other national policies in Vanuatu and hence is not part of the NSDP.

FIGURE 1.5: PRIORITIES FOR THE PACIFIC REGION WITH SOURCE AND NSDP ALIGNMENT IN VANUATU

SDG	Name	Source	NSDP
16.1.3	Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months	DHS, Women's Centre 2012	SOC 4.2.2
16.3.1	Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms	Police, NSDP	SOC 5.5.2
16.6.1	Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)	PEFA	SOC 6.3.3
16.7.1	Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions	Census, NSDP	SOC 4.1.1, SOC 4.4.3, SOC 4.1.2, SOC 4.1.3, SOC 4.6.2, SOC 4.3.3
16.7.2	Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group	Census, NSDP, Well-being	SOC1.4.1, SOC 5.5.3
16.9.1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	Civil Registry Department	Covered by other policies
16.10.2	Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information	NSDP	SOC 6.7.1, SOC 6.7.2
(16.a.1)	Existence of implementation plan for the different UN Treaty Body recommendations and UPR recommendations which are fully or partially resourced	Pacific Proxy Indicator modified from the global definition.	

Along with specific support for SDG implementation, PIFS has also been engaging in regional security cooperation mechanisms. In 2000, following the coup in Fiji and the tensions in Solomon Islands, the

Biketawa Declaration was adopted by member states of the Pacific Islands Forum. This was the basis for the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI), which concluded in 2017. This declaration was subsequently revised during the Pacific Islands Forum meeting in Nauru in September 2018. The revised 'Biketawa Plus' declaration, known as the Boe Declaration, is an initiative to develop and update the Biketawa Declaration beyond a response mechanism for crisis or requests for assistance.

The Boe Declaration includes an expanded understanding of security which includes human security, humanitarian assistance, environmental security and regional cooperation to strengthen resilience to natural events. It also includes a commitment to update regional security architecture.

National

One of the most basic ways for a country to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is through formulating national strategies for national development. The development of national strategies has been a longstanding ambition of the international community, with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation calling for plans to be operational by 2005. This commitment has been affirmed in the Pacific. In 2005, PIF member states through the Pacific Plan Initiative 5.1 committed to developing and implementing National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) within each country by 2008. These plans reflected and complemented existing planning and strategies.¹⁴ While many of these plans have been developed outside the scope of the 2030 Agenda, they demonstrate the selected priorities and indicators for each region. There has also been a process of aligning these NSDS and the subsequent National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) or Framework with the SDGs. This process has also been supported by the UNDP.¹⁵ Vanuatu, in part due to fortuitous timing with the previous national plan ending in 2015, has been very developed in aligning the NSDP with the SDGs.

¹⁴ UN Conference on Small Island Developing States, "SIDS Action Platform", 2014. <http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&nr=2328&menu=1507>

¹⁵ UNICEF, "United Nations Pacific Strategy 2018-2022", 2017. https://www.unicef.org/about/execboard/files/Final_UNPS_2018-2022_Pacific.pdf

II. Measuring SDG16 in Vanuatu



Data sources

The SDGs require data to be collected from a range of sources. The primary source is through official statistics which includes through data collection conducted by the National Statistics Office as well as administrative data. Official statistics play an important role and should “serve the government, the economy and the public with data about the economic, demographic, social and environmental situation.”¹⁶ The primary function of official statistics is meant to be to inform domestic actors in shaping sub-national and national policies.¹⁷ The SDGs offer an opportunity to strengthen Vanuatu’s national statistical system and national data production. This report highlights the available official statistics as well as what is planned for the future. It supplements these sources with other available data. Due to the many issues around the challenges in collecting data in the Pacific, it is unrealistic to assume that this data burden will be resolved through increasing the statistical capacity of National Statistics Offices.¹⁸ The inclusions of non-official sources is both practical, looking at what can be measured immediately using existing and planned data, and necessary as there are some SDG16 measures which benefit from triangulation and verification from non-official data sources.

For SDG16, more so than many of the other goals, there is often a need for data to be validated from non-official sources. For example, SDG16.1 relates to ending violent deaths. If the government is the perpetrator of violence and the main source of data for this target, then there will be little perceived objectivity of data for many of the indicators. Similarly, a government may have implemented a policy of explicit discrimination against particular groups. In such a circumstance, government accounts of birth registration would likely be less accurate. Another example is with corruption: government measures of corruption are potentially distrusted as governments are incentivised to downplay the prevalence of corruption in a country. The presence of third parties who are responsible either for data collection or validation of data will continue to be necessary, even with further full involvement of NSOs. This is true for all countries around the world.

For countries with limited capacity in collecting data, such as Vanuatu and other Small Island Developing States, there is also the issue of third party data initiatives to supplement government initiatives. Many of the SDG indicators require annual collection, but some states do not have the

¹⁶ UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, 2014

¹⁷ https://docs.aiddata.org/ad4/pdfs/Counting_on_Statistics--Full_Report.pdf

¹⁸ Ackman, M., Abel van Es, A., & Hyslop, D., (2018), “Measuring Peace in the Pacific - Addressing SDG16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions”, Report number 56, Institute for Economics & Peace, Sydney.

capacity to monitor annual changes. Third party activities can assist in monitoring changes against the relevant targets.

There are a range of possible methodologies for data collection, each with different sources. These methods can be summarised as asking, monitoring and a mix between the two. Asking includes surveys, structured interviews and focus groups. Monitoring is often through using administrative data, documents and records. Hybrid methodologies include expert surveys, observations and case studies. These include both asking and some qualitative assessment.

FIGURE 2.1: DIFFERENT METHODOLOGIES FOR DATA COLLECTION

ASKING	MONITORING	HYBRID
Surveys Census Structured interviews Focus groups	Documents Records	Observational Case studies Expert assessments

The different methodology is shaped by the purpose of the data collection, what is to be measured, how accurate the data needs to be, the collection point, budget and expertise of the questioner.

Below is an assessment of the three broad methodologies for data collection already available for measuring SDG16 in Vanuatu. Other sources of data may be available and there may be decisions made for further measurements.

a) Asking

The most important source of relevant data for measuring progress with the SDGs is through surveys and the census. Survey-based indicators are critical for capturing peoples' own assessments of progress and is a necessary complement to other SDG16 indicators measured from administrative sources at national and international levels. Further the SDGs have been negotiated to be explicitly oriented towards outcomes for people, which by definition requires more than administrative sources or assessments.

Vanuatu has a large amount of data which is regularly collected through the National Statistics Office. According to the World Bank Statistical Capacity Indicator, Vanuatu scores 52 which is the fourth highest score in the Pacific. This is essentially a rating of the capabilities of the national statistics office and other regular collections undertaken by the government and relevant departments. This score would be higher if Vanuatu had greater coverage for vital registration systems, namely births and deaths. Given the large geographic and cultural spread in Vanuatu as well as the limited size of government, this is a difficult issue to overcome. The Statistical Capacity Indicator is not a comment on the abilities of the Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO), which sits under the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management. Rather, it is mainly a comment on the relatively small size of government services.

Vanuatu through VNSO regularly collects data. Figure 2.2 outlines the planned data collections for the VNSO. This data is essential for the basic functioning of government and for directing policy. Data is collected through VNSO, who identifies relevant partner agencies or ministries for each major data collection. This is to ensure that the relevant expertise is harnessed whilst allowing for the VNSO to further develop capability.

FIGURE 2.2: MAJOR DATA COLLECTIONS IN VANUATU

Collection type	Last undertaken	Planned
Census	2009	2020
Mini-Census	2016	*
Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES)	2010	-
Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS)	2013	2020
NSDP Baseline Survey [#]	-	2019
Household listings (census listing)		

Note: Planned data collection is constantly changing and is dependent on specific funding.

[#] National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) Baseline Survey includes questions from the HIES and DHS.

* The mini-census was intended to determine the devastation from Cyclone Pam and is not intended to be repeated.

Other data collections which could happen in Vanuatu include an agriculture census, DHS and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in 2020. The baseline includes questions from the HIES that have previously been asked in Vanuatu to allow for comparability across the years. There are also plans for annual household listings, specifically to help inform responses to natural disasters. It is hoped that a market survey will be asked every year.

The sources of data from surveys that are relevant for monitoring SDG16 in Vanuatu include:

- Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women: Vanuatu Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2007
- Vanuatu Census, 2009
- Household Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES), 2010
- Vanuatu National Survey on Women’s Lives and Family Relationships, 2011
- Alternative Indicators of Well-being for Melanesia, 2012
- Vanuatu Demographic and National Health Survey, 2013
- Vanuatu Mini-Census, 2016

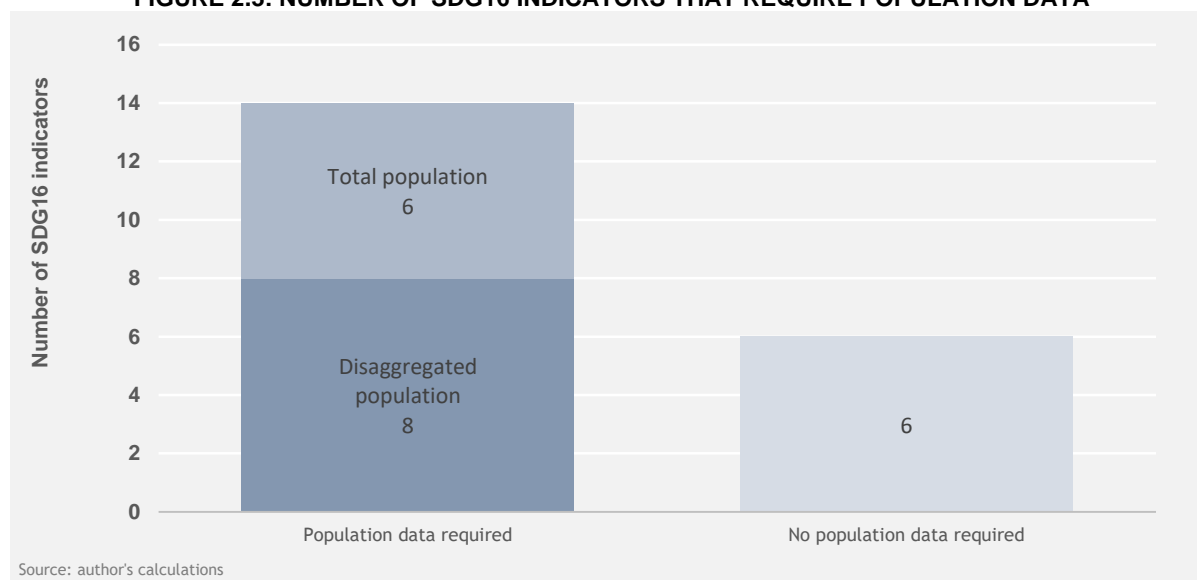
The NSDP Baseline Survey will be conducted in 2019 and is intended to be a major source of data for the NSDP and SDG16. Other regular survey collections will similarly be useful for monitoring the NSDP and the SDGs.

Population data

Reliable population data is fundamental for the SDGs to be effectively measured. This is especially true of SDG16: 14 of the 22 indicators require population data. This is shown in Figure 2.3. Population data comes from the census, vital registration data, administrative records and the population register.

For Vanuatu, the census is the main reliable source for determining the population. The importance of population data for Vanuatu is reflected in the National Population Policy 2011-2020.¹⁹ The fourth policy goal of the policy is to ‘improve the availability of data and the integration of population into sector plans and national development strategy.’

FIGURE 2.3: NUMBER OF SDG16 INDICATORS THAT REQUIRE POPULATION DATA



b) Monitoring

Data based on monitoring is often more regularly updated and actionable than survey data as it generally is measuring things relevant to the delivery of a particular service. The sources of this type of data are generally administrative sources from police, health, registers, municipal and other mechanisms of government. Non-Government Organisations and civil society may also collect relevant data, especially as it pertains to service delivery.

¹⁹ Department of Strategic Policy, Planning & Aid Coordination Ministry of the Prime Minister, ‘National Population Policy 2011-2020’, June 2011, Port Vila Vanuatu, <https://vnso.gov.vu/index.php/document-library?view=download&fileId=3071>

An issue with administrative data in Vanuatu arises from the significant geographic spread and the decentralised governance structure. The country has four levels of governance. The national level has 13 ministries and is in charge of service delivery and much of the policy making. The country is split into six provinces and further separated into 72 area councils with nominated councillors. The smallest division of government in Vanuatu is that of the community or villages which is run by the chiefs. The activity and presence of the national government do not necessarily penetrate in a significant way to the villages. Any activity that occurs below the area council level is the responsibility of the chiefs. For data recording this can mean that certain issues are addressed at the community level without being recorded in administrative data. This problem is exacerbated by limited police and government health facilities across the 65 populated islands of Vanuatu. As such, it is possible that only a portion of incidents are recorded in relevant administrative data.

An attempt to increase the number of incidents that are reported, as well as increase the possibility for interactions through the formal justice system, is being implemented through Authorised Persons and registered councillors. Authorised Persons are able to make an order for violence and hence report instances of violent crime. This is currently a small pilot in Efate and Santo funded through the Vanuatu Australia Policing and Justice Program. A similar initiative of expanding the presence of formal governance which could improve data collection is through the increase in police. The Ministry of Internal Affairs through the Police Service Commission is encouraging recruits from across the 72 Area Councils for local policing to interact with Chiefs and local authorities. There have also been discussions about increasing the data collection at the area level through area administrators. Crimes in the villages that are not reported to police authorities but are settled in the village could be collected through the area administrators. However, this would likely require significant initial funding to be effective. The main sources of monitoring data in Vanuatu remain police and civil society.

FIGURE 2.4: DATA REQUESTED FROM THE RELEVANT SOURCES AFTER CONSULTATION ABOUT WHAT DATA IS AVAILABLE

Indicator	Measure	Source
16.1.1	Number of victims of intentional homicide by sex and age by year	Police
16.1.3	Number of victims of assault, battery and rape by year	Police
16.2.1	Number of violent crimes against children by year	Police
16.2.3	Number of victims of sexual violence by sex and age by year	Police
16.3.2	Number of people in remand and total number of people in prison by year	Police
16.4.2	Number of people charged with illegal guns by year	Police
16.4.2	Number of illegal guns seized by year	Police
16.4.2	Number of crimes with guns used by year	Police
16.5.1	Number of bribery accusations by an individual with public official by year	Police
16.5.2	Number of bribery accusations by a business with public official by year	Police
16.4.1	Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows	Financial Intelligence Unit
16.9.1	Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	Civil Registrations in the Ministry for Internal Affairs

b) International comparative assessments.

There are also international sources of data available for Vanuatu. These often rely on local data or using new collection, but they can also include expert opinions. Fundamentally, this data is designed to allow for comparisons between countries and often uses a simple but replicable methodology. Examples include where they conduct their own research such as Transparency International undertaking surveys on corruption perceptions, where they compile information from country reporting such as Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability and expert assessments. Expert surveys are used by a range of organisations and data collection initiatives. This includes the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), the WomanStats Project, the World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators and Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem). The most critical element of any expert survey is defining who counts as an expert. There is a tendency for expert surveys to end up being 'expat' surveys, compiling the views of people who work for International NGOs or universities who generally have greater exposure to external organisations. An issue found in Vanuatu was that some global data could not be verified in-country. An example of this is data found on the Global Health Data Exchange.²⁰

²⁰ <http://ghdx.healthdata.org/gbd-2016/data-input-sources?locations=30&components=8&sdgs=1047>

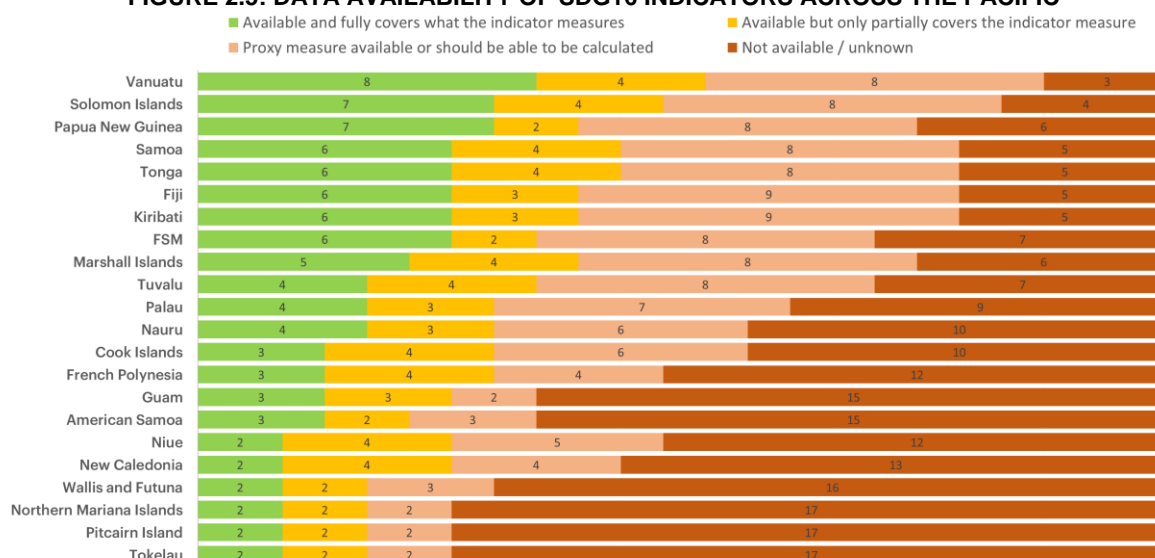
Data availability

The report *Measuring Peace in the Pacific*²¹ included an assessment of data currently available for SDG16 across the Pacific. Figure 2.5 shows the data availability in the Pacific across these 23 indicators. This is an assessment of availability only in relation to the requirements of the indicator. It does not take into account the age or reliability of the data and it is possible that some of the data coded as available is not of sufficient quality or coverage, or is simply too old to be useable. Furthermore, data coded as available may only provide partial coverage and may not be adequate for determining a national score. For example, there may only be data for the Highlands in Papua New Guinea, which accounts for around 40 per cent of the total population but is likely not representative of the rest of the country. Conversely, data may exist in some countries and territories but has been coded as not available or unknown.

- No Pacific Island country or territory has data covering all the SDG16 indicators.
- A total of 57 per cent of indicators are either available, partially available or available through a proxy measure. A proxy measure is an indirect and highly correlated measure of the desired outcome.
- The remaining 43 per cent of indicators are not available and further data generation efforts are required.
- It also emphasised that there are significant challenges to collecting relevant data across the Pacific region which cannot be easily resolved without substantial investment and innovative data solutions. There is still some debate over the prioritisation and usefulness of some SDG16 indicators for the Pacific region. This section seeks to outline available data for SDG16 indicators to inform these regional discussions and assist in the development of baselines.

Very few countries currently have high levels of data availability across the SDG16 indicators. Vanuatu and Solomon Islands have data available for nearly half of the indicators.

FIGURE 2.5: DATA AVAILABILITY OF SDG16 INDICATORS ACROSS THE PACIFIC



This study undertook a more in depth assessment of different indicators. This included time spent in-country determining possible data sources. There was a greater emphasis on gathering relevant information and data rather than assessing whether this data exists or not. This assessment was undertaken with a look at the relevance of particular data to the SDG indicator as well as whether interim measures or proxy data is appropriate.

²¹ Ackman, M., Abel van Es, A., & Hyslop, D., (2018), "Measuring Peace in the Pacific - Addressing SDG16: Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions", Report number 56, Institute for Economics & Peace, Sydney.

It was found that in Vanuatu:

- There is complete data for 30 per cent of indicators.
- There is partial or proxy data for 30 per cent of indicators.
- There is enough data for the remaining indicators to understand changes.
- Only one indicator does not have data.

FIGURE 2.6: SDG16 DATA AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT IN VANUATU

RATING	MEANING
A	Available and fully covers what the indicator measures
B	Available but only partially covers the indicator measure
C	Proxy measure available or should be able to be calculated
D	Partial measure which should highlight changes (or planned)
E	Not available / unknown

Target	Target name	Indicator number			
		1	2	3	4
16.1	Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	B	A	C	A
16.2	End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	C	E	D	
16.3	Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all	D	A		
16.4	By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime	A	D		
16.5	Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms	D	D		
16.6	Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels	B	D		
16.7	Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels	C	D		
16.8	Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance	A			
16.9	By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	A			
16.10	Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements	B	C		
16.a	Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime	A			
16.b	Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development	D			

III. Detailed evaluation of data availability



Indicator by indicator status

The following is an assessment of what data is available for measuring SDG16 in Vanuatu. This includes what data is currently available, planned or can be measured with few additional resources. Of the 23 indicators for SDG16, only seven are Tier III meaning there is not a commonly recognised methodology to measure. All other indicators do have a methodology and hence there are accepted ways for measuring. Whilst ideally Vanuatu would follow accepted methodology for all SDG16 indicators, it would require a significant increase in resources. Instead of listing all the ways in which Vanuatu needs more funding in order to measure SDG16, this report is biased towards workable solutions for data collection and monitoring to direct policy over the next few years. It is modest in its aims: for the 16 indicators listed in the SDG16 data availability assessment in Figure 2.6 that are not rated as A (Available and fully covers what the indicator measures) should improve in rating. As such, there are proxies suggested that could be measured with limited additional resources and may not be at the required level of statistical rigour, but are an improvement on current measures. Ideal SDG16 measures have been outlined elsewhere.²² The intention of this report is to assist Vanuatu in compiling and acquiring better information than currently exists to shape policy as it relates to SDG16.

16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

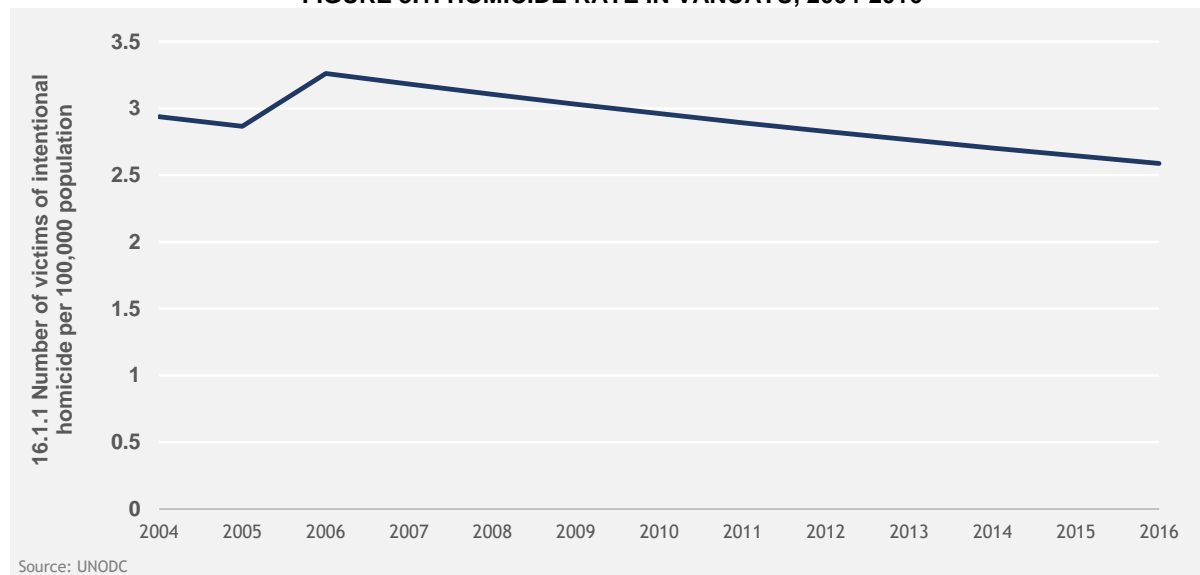
16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age

Data Source	Administrative data from the Police - Crime Reporting Information Management System (CRIMS)
Data Producer	Vanuatu Police Force
Years Available	Paper records for 2005-2015 (possible to compile), digital records from 2015 onwards
Measure type	Direct
Updated	Yearly
Disaggregated	By sex
Rating	B - Available but only partially covers the indicator measure

²² <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/metadata-compilation/Metadata-Goal-16.pdf>

The two sources of national level data on homicides generally are from the criminal justice system and the civil registration system. The criminal justice system records charges or convictions for homicide and manslaughter, whereas the civil registration system in theory should record instances of violent deaths. However, cause of death is not regularly recorded, highlighting weaknesses with civil registration and vital statistics systems across the Pacific region.

FIGURE 3.1: HOMICIDE RATE IN VANUATU, 2004-2016



The source for this data going forward is Criminal Records Information Management System (CRIMS) which has records of the number of charged and convicted for violent deaths since 2015. There are potential issues with underreporting of homicides that are dealt with in the villages not necessarily captured. Figure 3.1 shows historical rates of homicides in Vanuatu, suggesting the rate has decreased. However, rates can be a deceptive measure for low population sizes. Minor changes such as shown in Figure 3.1 can be reflective of changes in year-by-year population estimates combined with imputed data for missing years rather than a meaningful trend over the number of homicides. This is particularly true when there is a constant and linear line over a long period of time.

This indicator is aligned with the NSDP target: SOC 4.2: Prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women, children and vulnerable groups.

16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause

Data Source	Media reports
Data Producer	Uppsala Conflict Database Program
Years Available	1946 onwards
Measure type	Direct
Updated	Yearly
Disaggregated	No disaggregation
Data rating	A - Available and fully covers what the indicator measures

The Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) is the standard measure for conflict-related deaths and has databases dating back from 1946.²³ It collects information via media monitoring and other public sources such as the global news database Factiva. This conflict-related deaths data has not been disaggregated by age group, sex and cause of death which is more an issue for the international community than for Vanuatu specifically. Vanuatu has very low historical instances of conflict. Tension in Port Vila in 2007 is alleged to have resulted in three deaths, with very few other accounts of conflict. The UCDP database only captures instances where there were at least 25 battle-related

²³ Uppsala Conflict Data Program, "UCDP Conflict Database", Uppsala University, www.ucdp.uu.se

deaths or 25 deliberate killings of civilians in a year. If there was a conflict in Vanuatu with over 25 deaths than it would likely be captured by police and media.

This indicator can be said to be measured in Vanuatu with a high degree of certainty. Like most countries in the world, Vanuatu has both raw numbers and rates of zero in this indicator.

16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months

Data Source	Survey (DHS), administrative data (Vanuatu Women’s Centre, Police)
Data Producer	Vanuatu Women’s Centre, VNSO, Police
Years Available	2009, 2013
Measure type	Indirect – proxy workaround
Updated	Workaround available
Disaggregated	Partly disaggregated
Data rating	C - Proxy measure available or should be able to be calculated

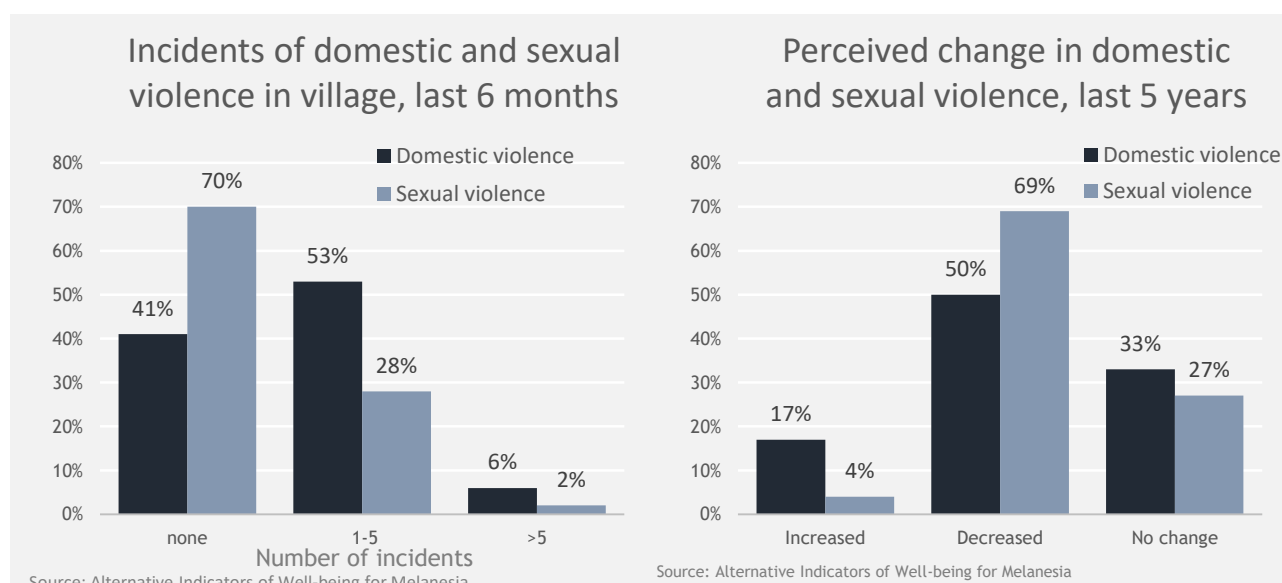
In order for this indicator to be accurately measured, it requires a yearly survey sampling the entire population. An issue for a country like Vanuatu where there are significant urban/rural/remote divides is that such a survey is relatively expensive to run and, given the lower population rates, requires high numbers of participants in order to achieve statistically significant findings.

However, there are many proxy measures which are available for Vanuatu which can be updated using existing data collections. A source of data is the Vanuatu National Survey on Women’s Lives and Family Relations, which includes questions on the prevalence of violence against children by intimate partners and others, as well as the consequences of this violence to women and children. This extensive survey was undertaken in 2009 and there is currently no plan to repeat the study. This could be set as the baseline. The 2013 Demographic Health Survey asked about the justifications for domestic violence which is a useful tool for directing advocacy and policies to change perceptions.

Another source of historical data is the Alternative Indicators of Well-being for Melanesia in 2012. In this study, women’s leaders were asked to report on the number of times they have witnessed or heard of a domestic or sexual attack on a woman in their community by a man in their community. They were also asked their opinions of whether the rates of domestic or sexual violence were increasing or decreasing. This was asked across the six provinces. The reason why women’s leaders were asked is because it is very difficult to ask women independent of other members of the family in a survey.

The results of this study are shown in Figure 3.2, which highlights that, on average, women’s leaders thought that both domestic violence and sexual violence were decreasing. There are variations across the provinces. For example, all women’s leaders from Penama Province, which reported the highest number of incidents of sexual violence in the last six months, feel sexual violence has decreased. In contrast, the rural population of Sanma Province reported the lowest incidents of sexual violence in the last six months, but 13 per cent of women’s leaders there said they feel sexual violence has gotten worse over the last five years. There are currently no plans to repeat this study.

FIGURE 3.2: INCIDENTS AND PERCEPTIONS OF WOMEN'S LEADERS OF DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE, VANUATU AVERAGE, 2012



Despite what is reported by the Global Health Data Exchange, the 2007-2008 Vanuatu Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey did not include measures of violence.²⁴ Much of the data included in the Global Health Data Exchange could not be verified in-country.

Two relevant indicators in the SDGs that will be measured in the Pacific region that could be useful proxies for SDG16.1.3 are SDG5.2.1 and SDG5.2.2. Indicator 5.2.1 is the proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age. Indicator 5.2.2 is the proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence.

There remains the issue of frequency of updating, so alternative sources of data were sought. Police have some data on rates of physical and sexual violence. However, there are high underreporting rates, particularly in areas where there is limited police presence.

Another data resource for looking at levels of violence and sexual violence is through civil society organisations.

More current data by the Vanuatu Women's Centre could be used as a proxy. The Vanuatu Women's Centre is an independent civil society organisation that runs a national prevention and response service. It is based in Port Vila but also provides counselling services across four other branches and 44 Committees Against Violence Against Women (CAVAW) based in remote island communities in Vanuatu. They provide yearly reports on the number of new clients and repeat counselling sessions across Vanuatu Women's Centre, branches and CAVAWs. They also record how many clients come use their services and how many apply for protection orders, and they are trying to record when disability is present. An extremely crude updating technique could be to tie the number of clients reporting to services in a given year with another study. Changes in the number of clients reporting would be the basis for determining if the number. For example, the number of new clients increased from 995 in 2011 to 1,332 in 2014. At the same time, the number of repeat counselling sessions increased from 1,481 to 1,998.²⁵ This would need to be altered to reflect that more people are using the Vanuatu Women's Centre's services because it is more well-known and has greater networks.

²⁴ <http://ghdx.healthdata.org/gbd-2016/data-input-sources?locations=30&components=8&sdgs=1047>

²⁵ <http://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/vanuatu-womens-centre-progress-report-3.pdf>

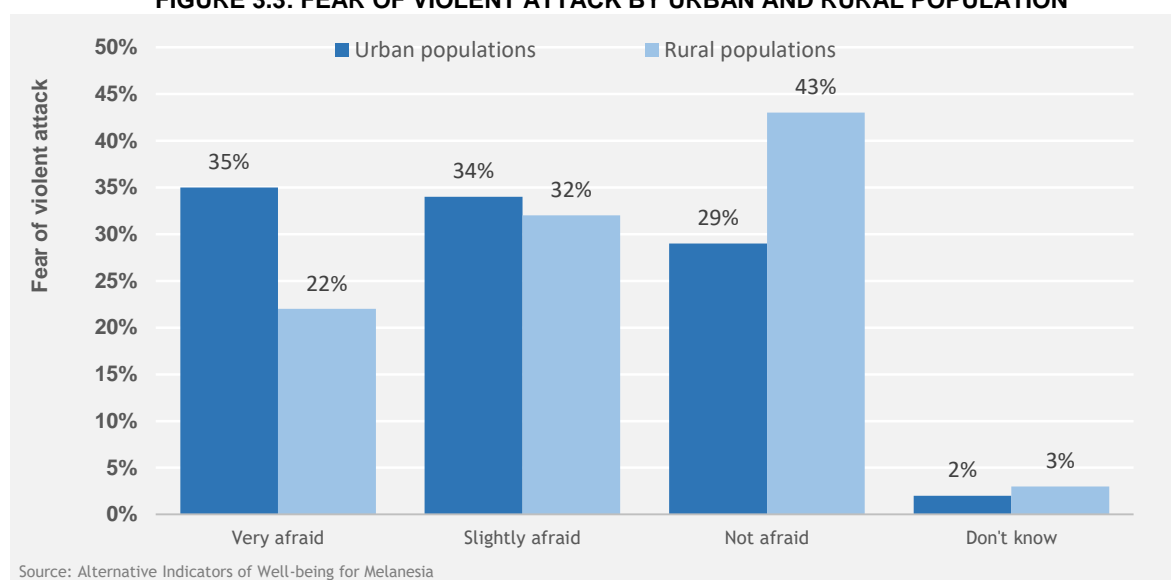
This indicator has been aligned with the NSDP through SOC 4.2.2 Number of reported cases of violence against women, children, and vulnerable people.

16.1.4 Proportion of people that feel safe walking alone around the area they live

Data Source	Survey
Data Producer	VNSO
Years Available	2012, 2019
Measure type	Direct
Updated	Periodically
Disaggregated	Disaggregated
Data rating	A - Available and fully covers what the indicator measures

People across Vanuatu were asked about their feelings of safety within a community during the study on 'Alternative Indicators of Well-being for Melanesia.' There were two questions asked to filter out fear that was not of interest: if you were to be walking by yourself at night in the village or community, how afraid would you be of: animal attack; magic or poison, and; personal attack from another individual on a 3-point scale.²⁶ The question of most relevance to SDG16 is about violent attack. This is shown in Figure 3.3 which highlights there is a divide between urban and rural populations, with greater fear of violent attacks in urban populations.

FIGURE 3.3: FEAR OF VIOLENT ATTACK BY URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION



There are no plans to repeat the 'Alternative Indicators of Well-being for Melanesia', however it is proposed that similar questions or possible proxies will be asked in the NSDP baseline survey. This includes whether people feel safe or have recent experiences of crime. This should be disaggregated by sex, urban/rural population and by province.

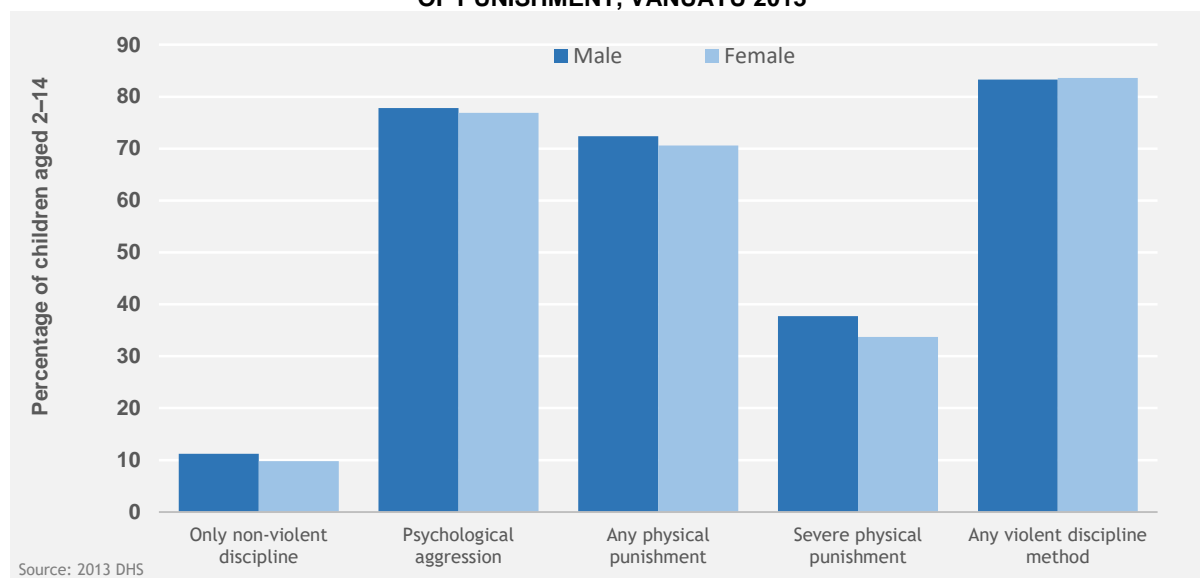
16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month

Data Source	Survey (DHS)
Data Producer	VNSO
Years Available	2012, 2019
Measure type	Partial: different age groupings and time frame
Updated	Periodically
Disaggregated	Disaggregated

²⁶ Alternative Indicators of Well-being for Melanesia

Violence against children is often underreported and is viewed as a family issue where the government should not be involved. Nevertheless, it can have significant long-term impacts on the ongoing health and wellbeing of the victim for many years. As part of the 2013 DHS, it was determined that 84 per cent of children aged 2–14 years old in Vanuatu experienced violent discipline (psychological aggression and/or physical punishment). This is similar to SDG indicator 16.2.1, with a different age grouping: the indicator calls for ages 1-17. The DHS can act as a partial proxy measure. The results of this survey are shown in Figure 3.4.

FIGURE 3.4: PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN AGED 2–14 YEARS ACCORDING TO METHOD AND SEVERITY OF PUNISHMENT, VANUATU 2013



Another possible data source for this indicator is administrative data from the Vanuatu Police. There are some instances where violence against children is reported to the police. However, the police recognise there is likely to be significant underreporting due to limited police presence and broad societal acceptance of violence against children. It is not currently captured from health services or schools. Another potential source of data is the Vanuatu Women’s Centre. However, there is scepticism that this would include any additional information from police records. Instances of violence against children are only recorded in a non-confidential format if a child has been independently referred to the Vanuatu Women’s Centre. If there is violence against children in the context of violence against women, this is only recorded in confidential notes with a social worker. Another possible source is the Vanuatu National Survey on Women’s Lives and Family Relationships from 2011. This survey asked a series of questions about violence against children, including whether it occurred during intimate partner violence and what some of the impacts of this violence has been on children. It was found that children were also beaten during intimate partner violence in around 17 per cent of cases.

This SDG indicator has been aligned with NSDP SOC 4.6 and the indicator SOC 4.6.1 which measures the total number of cases with children experiencing human rights violations in the following areas sexual abuse, neglect, physical abuse, exploitation, emotional abuse (disseminate by these areas) accessing support services.

16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation

Data Source	Expert assessments (from IOM and others)
Data Producer	
Years Available	
Measure type	-

Updated	-
Disaggregated	
Data rating	E - Not available / unknown

This is the only SDG16 indicator where data was not found in Vanuatu. This indicator will always be a proxy or expert assessment as human trafficking is by very nature a hidden crime which is severely underreported. There have been reports of prostitution rings offering sex to cruise ship passengers and construction workers in Port Vila.²⁷ A relevant question in the 2013 DHS survey asked males aged 15-49 if they had ever paid for sex, and approximately three per cent answered that they had. Whilst not all prostitution workers would be victims of human trafficking, it is indicative of the demand for services. Nevertheless, this survey was not asked of tourists or foreign nationals and so has only limited usefulness. There have also been reports of human trafficking in relation to foreign national construction workers and deckhands which is largely underreported. This indicator could be measured through an expert survey amongst people who are more aware of human trafficking issues in Vanuatu. This could include the International Organization for Migration (IOM) which has a presence in Vanuatu as well as civil society organisations and businesses that interact with construction and shipping containing foreign nationals. This could be in the form of a yearly survey conducted either on the phone or in-person amongst the selected expert group.

16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18

Data Source	Survey, Administrative data
Data Producer	VNSO
Years Available	2009, 2016-onwards
Measure type	Indirect – proxy workaround
Updated	Periodically
Disaggregated	Partially – no measures of men
Data rating	D - Partial measure which should highlight changes

Research conducted in 2009 by the Vanuatu Women’s Centre asked participants if, before they reached the age 15, they were already experiencing some form of sexual violence. While this metric is not identical to the SDG indicator, it can act as a proxy. However, this survey was only administered to women and girls, meaning there is no data for this SDG with respect to boys or men. Nevertheless, this study indicates that sexual abuse of children in Vanuatu is increasing. Police have also collected some relevant data, such as the number of violent crimes against children by year and the number of victims of sexual violence by sex and age by year. However, there are significant underreporting issues with this.

This indicator has been contextualised through NSDP SOC 4.6.1 which looks at the total number of cases with children experiencing human rights violations in the following areas sexual abuse, neglect, physical abuse, exploitation, emotional abuse (disseminate by these areas) accessing support services.

16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms

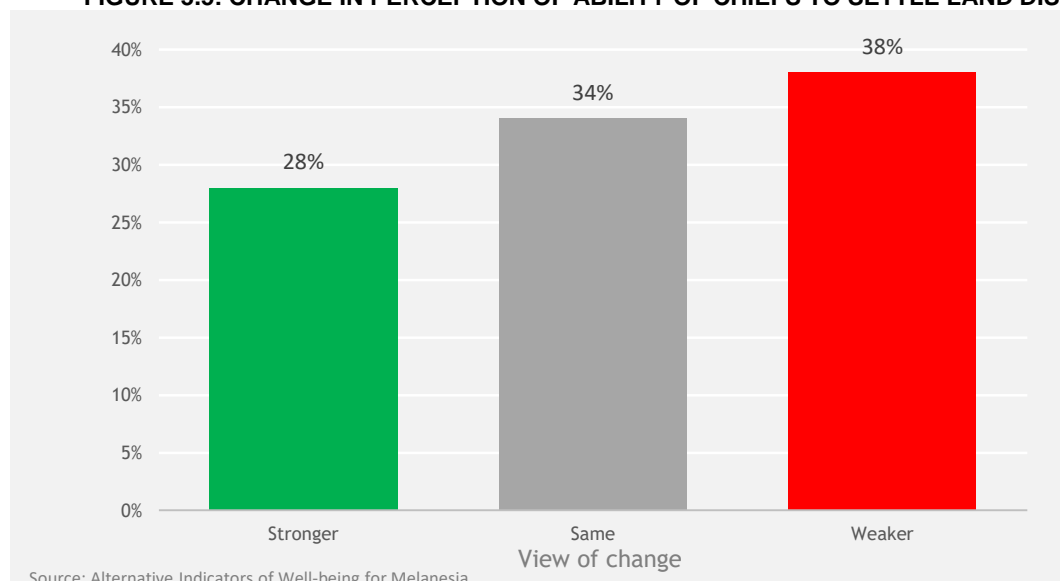
Data Source	Survey
Data Producer	VNSO, Alternative Indicators of Well-being for Melanesia, NSDP
Years Available	2012, 2019
Measure type	Indirect – proxy workaround
Updated	Periodically – dependent on NSDP
Disaggregated	-
Data rating	D - Partial measure which should highlight changes

²⁷ <https://vanuatuindependent.com/2017/02/25/prostitution-aplenty-port-vila/>

The ideal measure of this indicator would be through a victimisation survey. However, there are no plans to run this survey in the future (although this may change). There are incomplete proxy sources which can be used based on existing or planned data collection.

In the Melanesian wellbeing survey, respondents were asked if they had been the victims of theft or vandalism in the 12 month period preceding the survey. By comparing this survey data to police-reported crime rates as collected by the police and Public Prosecutors Office, a proxy for this SDG indicator could be devised. This survey could also serve as a baseline for determining a proxy for the rates of reporting to traditional governance. There are two questions that were asked in the Melanesian wellbeing survey that provide guidance as to the perceptions of traditional justice, and hence the propensity of people to report grievances through the chief system. The other question asked in this survey which relates to reporting rates of traditional governance is the number of outstanding fines in community charged by chiefs.

FIGURE 3.5: CHANGE IN PERCEPTION OF ABILITY OF CHIEFS TO SETTLE LAND DISPUTES



Is it still unclear whether the NSDP Baseline will have some measure of the number of incidents and the number reported to determine the underreporting rate. The NSDP is aligned with this indicator through SOC 5.5.2: Incidents of theft and vandalism reported annually to the police (and the proportion of reported incidents to unreported). At the time of writing, it was unclear whether the NSDP baseline survey would include measures for this indicator.

16.3.2 Unsentenced detainees as proportion of overall prison population

Data Source	Administrative data
Data Producer	Police
Years Available	2016 onwards
Measure type	Direct
Updated	Annually
Disaggregated	Sex breakdown
Data rating	A - Available and fully covers what the indicator measures

Due to the relatively small prison population of Vanuatu, this indicator is relatively easy to measure. The Department of Correctional Services monitors the number of people in prison on remand and the rest of the prison population.

Given the relatively small sizes of prisons in Vanuatu, as well as a culture where remand is not readily available for people who commit crimes on islands away from prisons, it was suggested that another indicator could be more useful for Vanuatu. Perhaps a more relevant indicator in the Vanuatu context is an indicator which will be measured through the NSDP: SOC 5.3.3 Total number of correctional

officers per 100 detainees. The goal is to have a 30 per cent increase by 2030 and will be tracked by the Department of Correctional Services under the Ministry of Justice and Social Welfare.

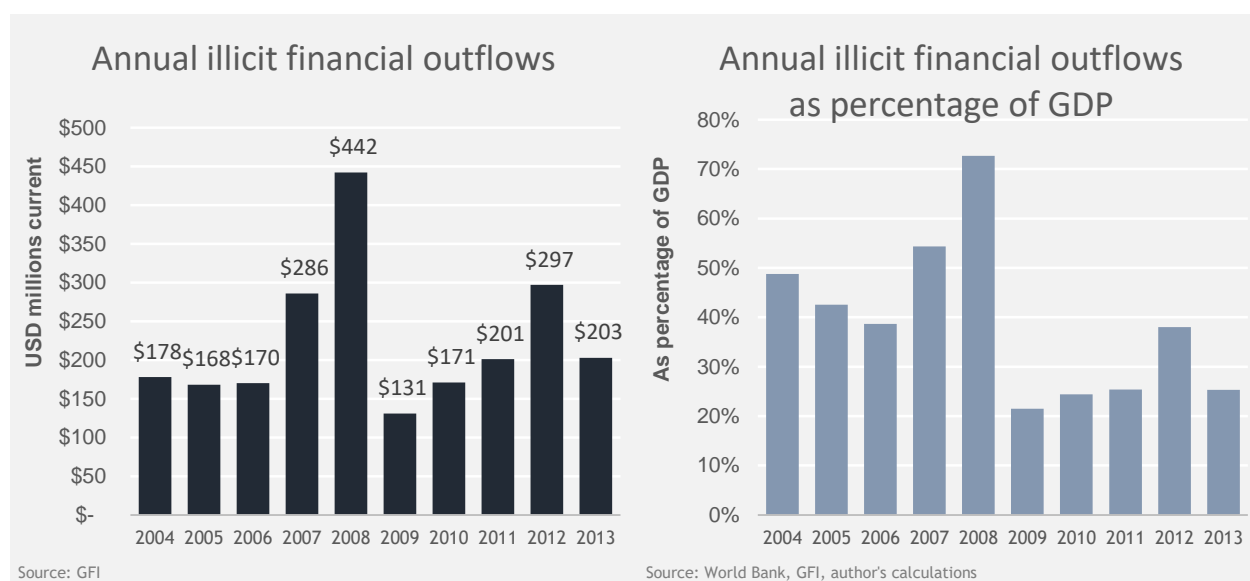
Other relevant NSDP indicators include: SOC 5.1.1 Proportion of Justice and Community Services Sector Capacity Development Strategy 2017-2020 implemented; SOC 5.1.2 Annual change in number of Magistrate and Supreme Court pending cases; and SOC 5.1.3 Average cost of legal fees/services for a court case.

16.4.1 Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current United States dollars).

Data Source	International assessment
Data Producer	Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability
Years Available	2004-2013
Measure type	Direct
Updated	Annual
Disaggregated	-
Data rating	A - Available and fully covers what the indicator measures

This is reported by the Vanuatu Police in the Financial Intelligence Unit. They have relevant data recorded from 2006 onwards. This is reported to international bodies as a result of the Financial Action Task Force, an intergovernmental organisation that measures illicit financial flows, putting Vanuatu on the 'Grey List' meaning it was suspected to have high levels of illicit financial flows. Vanuatu was officially removed from the FATF Grey List in June 2018. Other international organisations that make assessments of illicit financial flows include Global Financial Integrity which is shown in Figure 3.6.

FIGURE 3.6: ANNUAL ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS IN USD MILLIONS AND AS PROPORTION OF GDP, VANUATU 2004-2013



16.4.2 Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments

Data Source	Administrative data
Data Producer	Police
Years Available	Planned
Measure type	Indirect – proxy workaround
Updated	Periodically
Disaggregated	

Data rating	D - Partial measure which should highlight changes
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According to the Vanuatu Police, there are two studies underway on gun availability in Vanuatu: one currently by the Red Cross and a survey by police to be undertaken later in 2018. The police were confident that they had numbers on the number of people charged with illegal guns by year, the number of illegal guns seized by year and the number of crimes with guns used by year. These would be useful as a proxy for gun availability.

16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

Data Source	International assessment
Data Producer	Transparency International
Years Available	2017
Measure type	Indirect – proxy workaround
Updated	Periodically
Disaggregated	
Data rating	D - Partial measure which should highlight changes

There have been a few prominent examples of bribery involving politicians in Vanuatu in recent years, with 14 Members of Parliament imprisoned for corruption and bribery in 2015. As such, there is some public information relating to those charged with crimes. However, this alone would be inadequate to reflect levels of corruption. The Department of Internal Affairs does not record this information, and it is encouraged for Vanuatu to undertake a survey such as the United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS).

As an interim measure, an international assessment could be undertaken. Transparency International started assessing Vanuatu in the Corruption Perceptions Index 2017. Vanuatu ranks 71 out of 180 countries with a scores 43 out of 100. This is the same rank and score as Bulgaria and South Africa. In contrast, Somalia ranks as 180 with a score of nine, whereas New Zealand ranks first with a score of 89. Vanuatu ranks the highest out of the Pacific Islands that are included: Solomon Islands ranks 85 and Papua New Guinea ranks 135. Notably, the Vanuatu chapter of Transparency International has been suspended so it is unclear whether Vanuatu will be included in future updates.

16.5.2 Proportion of businesses that had at least one contact with a public official and that paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months

Data Source	International assessment
Data Producer	Transparency International
Years Available	2017
Measure type	Indirect – proxy workaround
Updated	Periodically
Disaggregated	
Data rating	D - Partial measure which should highlight changes

Similar to indicator 16.5.1, this indicator would best be addressed through a survey. The Department of Internal Affairs does not possess any data relevant to this. The Police Department could record if there is an instance of bribery requests to or by businesses, but such instances are rarely reported to the authorities.

It could be possible for the government of an NGO to conduct a small, targeted survey of businesses. International businesses in particular could be surveyed, as their scale could make it more likely for

them to have the capacity to respond. To limit resources required, a small targeted survey could be undertaken. Vanuatu is a member of the Group of International Financial Centre Supervisors (GIFCS), and this group could provide guidance as to participants for the survey.

The indicators relating to corruption have been contextualised in the NSDP through SOC 5.2 which include measures of bribery. There is an international recognition that bribery is a complex issue to measure. There is often the need for composite indicators (multiple sources i.e. Transparency International Corruption Perception Index, etc.)

16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)

Data Source	International assessment
Data Producer	Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA)
Years Available	2006, 2009, 2013
Measure type	Indirect – proxy workaround
Updated	Periodically
Disaggregated	Partially
Data rating	B - Available but only partially covers the indicator measure

Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) undertakes assessments of the credibility of the budget. “A” is the highest score with seven different ratings worse than “A”. The 2009 assessment by PEFA was undertaken in Vanuatu, but is not publically available. Vanuatu received the highest possible score across four relevant indicators in 2006, with a deterioration in Aggregate revenue out-turn compared to original approved budget in 2013. This is shown in Figure 3.7.

FIGURE 3.7: ASSESSMENT OF CREDIBILITY OF THE BUDGET FOR VANUATU

Indicator	2006	2013
1. Aggregate expenditure out-turn compared to original approved budget	A	A
2. Composition of expenditure out-turn compared to original approved budget	A	A
3. Aggregate revenue out-turn compared to original approved budget	A	C
4. Stock and monitoring of expenditure payment arrears	A	A

Source: PEFA

The UNDP is helping communities develop risk informed development plans. Vanuatu’s Internal Affairs is looking to measure this in part, to the extent that it aligns with departments and the policy goals. The measurement will not be exactly identical to the SDG indicator, but is intended to add to more accountable decision-making.

This indicator has been localised through the NSDP with the following targets: SOC 6.3.3 Number of MPs submitting annual financial accountability report; SOC 6.4.1 Proportion of BP objectives met as reported in department ARs; SOC 6.8.1 Percentage of aid the government sector reported on the government’s budget; SOC 6.8.2 Percentage of aid for the government sector using Vanuatu government PFM systems; and SOC 6.8.3 Percentage of aid for the government sector using Vanuatu government procurement systems.

16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services

Data Source	Administrative data, Survey
Data Producer	VNSO, Electoral Commission
Years Available	-
Measure type	Indirect – proxy workaround
Updated	Periodically

Disaggregated	Partially
Data rating	D - Partial measure which should highlight changes

This indicator is best addressed through a survey, such as the Draft Survey Instrument for Tier III SDG indicator 16.6.2: Proportion of the population satisfied with their last experience of public services being undertaken with support from the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre. Countries will be asked to report on overall satisfaction with education, health and administrative services based on their last experience or experience of a dependent. There are no current plans to conduct this survey in Vanuatu.

Surveys on public service satisfaction are highly prevalent but often decentralised. For example, the health ministry will have a program of receiving feedback from clients, similarly too for schools, police services. If such surveys were prevalent in Vanuatu, then the NSO could harmonise the different surveys to report on this indicator. However, from discussions across the different ministries and departments in Vanuatu it was unclear whether any significant client feedback survey could be used for this purpose.

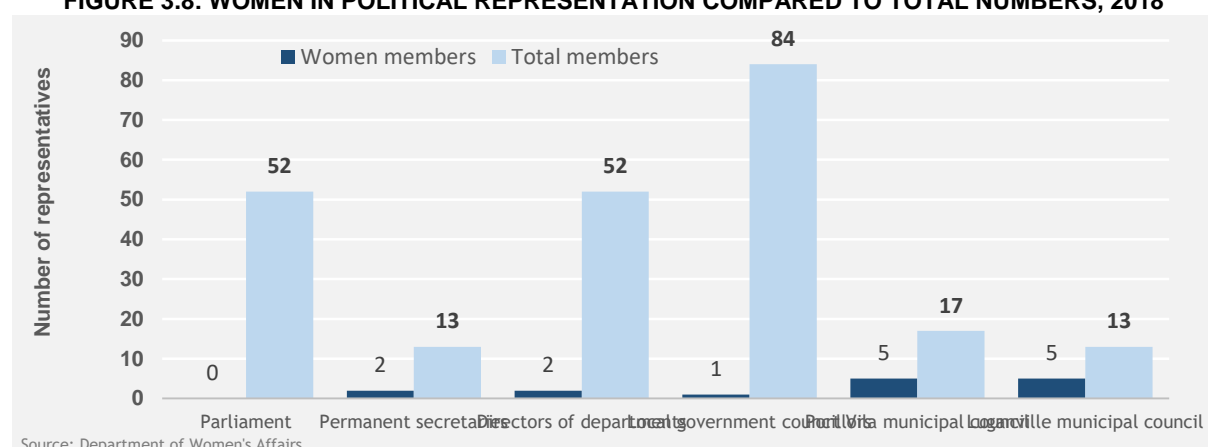
A proxy for this indicator will be asked in the NSDP Baseline: SOC 6.3.2 Proportion of population with an overall positive assessment of their local elected officials. This should address some of the sentiment behind the indicator. However, it is likely that in the future supplementary surveys specifically addressing service delivery will be required.

16.7.1 Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions

Data Source	Survey
Data Producer	Department of Women's Affairs
Years Available	2018 (could be backdated)
Measure type	Indirect – proxy workaround
Updated	Periodically
Disaggregated	Partially
Data rating	C - Proxy measure available or should be able to be calculated

Figure 3.8 illustrates women's political representation in Vanuatu as of 2018. The actual picture in the country is slightly worse than this data shows, with one of both the two permanent secretaries and two directors of departments in an acting role. According to the Department of Women's Affairs, women are underrepresented across all of government.

FIGURE 3.8: WOMEN IN POLITICAL REPRESENTATION COMPARED TO TOTAL NUMBERS, 2018



Other public institutions include the judiciary which has a female representation than politics. One of the seven members of the Supreme Court is female, Master Cybelle L. Cenac, and the remaining six members are male. However, with three females from the seven members in the Magistrates Court,

representation is much higher in this court. These members are Senior Magistrate Hannaline Nalau Ilo, Magistrate Florence Sam and Magistrate Jessica Palo.

In Vanuatu, there is also recognition for greater participation in traditional governance. Under the Lands Reform Act 2013, at least 30 per cent of people in attendance of lands tribunal court meetings need to be women. Attendees are listed in minutes which are then used in islands tribunal court. Minutes are held in the Lands Tribunal Office and could potentially be compiled to see changing proportional representation over time.

The NSDP localises this indicator through SOC 4.1.1 Proportion of government departments with gender responsive policies, legislation and program. Gender responsive planning and budgeting refers to the aim to ‘leave no one and their needs behind’ in terms of both budgets and policies regardless of sector and activities. The baseline year for measuring this NSDP indicator is 2017 because National Gender Equality Policy just came into effect, targets to be derived from it.

Other NSDP measures that could be relevant include: SOC 4.4.3 Proportion of laws reviewed on basis of discriminatory and gender biased principles; SOC 4.1.2 Number of decisions in which women participate; SOC 4.1.3 Indicators of women’s empowerment (which may be measured under the NSDP Baseline survey); SOC 4.6.2 Proportion of youth age 14 -30 that feel valued in society empowerment (which may be measured under the NSDP Baseline survey); and SOC 4.3.3 Percentage of all political, community and government leadership positions have people with disability represented.

16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group

Data Source	Survey
Data Producer	VNSO
Years Available	2012, 2019
Measure type	Indirect – proxy workaround
Updated	Periodically
Disaggregated	Partially –
Data rating	D - Partial measure which should highlight changes

Ideally, this indicator is measured through a survey. SDG indicator 16.7.2 is analogous to measuring levels of ‘political efficacy’, namely people’s feeling that their political views can impact on political processes. This was recently selected by the OECD as a ‘headline indicator’ of civic engagement and governance, alongside voter turnout. ‘Political efficacy’ comprises two distinct dimensions: (1) system responsiveness (or ‘external efficacy’) i.e. the individual’s belief in the responsiveness of the political system (2) subjective competence (or ‘internal efficacy’) i.e. the perception of the individual ability to understand politics and to act politically.

As such, it is proposed that SDG indicator 16.7.2 be monitored with two survey questions measuring these two dimensions. This is currently being piloted by the World Values Survey Association, although not in any Pacific Island countries or territories.

Proxy indicators of the belief of the population include trust in leaders. This has been localised in Vanuatu through the Melanesian Alternative Wellbeing indicators where 84 per cent of respondents were happy with the chief’s ability to resolve disputes. This question will be asked again as part of the NSDP baseline survey under SOC 5.5.3 Proportion of population with positive assessment of their chief’s ability to resolve disputes peacefully.

16.8.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations

Data Source	International Assessment
Data Producer	-
Years Available	All
Measure type	Direct
Updated	Periodically
Disaggregated	-
Data rating	A - Available and fully covers what the indicator measures

This is an international measure and hence Vanuatu does not independently need to measure it. Vanuatu is a member of all the major international organisations that include countries recognised by the United Nations. They are also a member of regional organisations such as Alliance of Small Island States, Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat among others.

16.9.1 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age

Data Source	Administrative data, survey
Data Producer	Department of Internal Affairs, Census
Years Available	2013
Measure type	Direct
Updated	Periodically
Disaggregated	-
Data rating	A - Available and fully covers what the indicator measures

This indicator is measured by the Civil Registry Department of Internal Affairs. There has been a concerted effort to increase the measurement and scope of this indicator, especially since Cyclone Pam. The challenge is to keep it up the initiative. A fail-safe measure has been introduced to ensure births are registered: if children haven't been registered by the time they go to school, then will be picked up by the schools. This recognises that most of the births in Vanuatu are happening in the community and not necessarily in contact with hospitals.

16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months

Data Source	International assessment
Data Producer	Committee to Protect Journalists, Reporters without Borders
Years Available	1992-2018
Measure type	Direct
Updated	Yearly
Disaggregated	Journalists
Data rating	B - Available but only partially covers the indicator measure

This indicator is measured globally through international assessments. Historically this has been through organisations looking at attacks to particular groups, such as the Committee to Protect Journalists and Reporters without Borders. In the future, international assessments will be conducted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).²⁸

²⁸ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-16-10-01.pdf>

16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information

Data Source	Legal database
Data Producer	PACLII
Years Available	-
Measure type	Indirect – proxy workaround
Updated	Periodically
Disaggregated	Partially
Data rating	C - Proxy measure available or should be able to be calculated

This indicator is binary for countries: either they have passed relevant legislation or they have not. Vanuatu passed its Right to Information Act in 2016. Other legislation in Vanuatu can be accessed through Pacific Islands Legal Information Institute (PacLII) which stores legislation and cases across Vanuatu.

This indicator has been localised through the NSDP with SOC 6.7.2 Proportion of data collected from requests acted upon by RTI officers in each government agency. The NSDP also looks at access to information through SOC 6.7.1 Proportion of population utilising media outlets for news including: newspapers, mobile phones, radio, television, and internet.

16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles

Data Source	International assessment
Data Producer	Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)
Years Available	1993-2018
Measure type	Direct
Updated	Yearly
Disaggregated	-
Data rating	A - Available and fully covers what the indicator measures

This is a binary international assessment: countries either have an independent national human rights institution or they don't. This is assessed by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). This indicator has been localised through the NDSP with SOC 4.4.1 Proportion of the activities of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) implemented and SOC 4.4.2 Proportion of human rights related conventions ratified.

16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law

Data Source	Survey, Administration data
Data Producer	Police, Vanuatu Women's Centre, VNSO
Years Available	-
Measure type	Indirect – proxy workaround
Updated	-
Disaggregated	-
Data rating	D - Partial measure which should highlight changes

This indicator should be measured by a survey. However, as an indirect proxy using existing data, reported rates of discrimination as recorded by the Police and the Vanuatu Women's Centre, among others, could be used.

This has been contextualised through the NSDP: SOC 4.4.3 Proportion of laws reviewed on basis of discriminatory and gender biased principles; SOC 4.2: Prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women, children and vulnerable groups; and SOC 4.6.1 Total number of cases with children experiencing human rights violations in the following areas sexual abuse, neglect, physical abuse, exploitation, emotional abuse (disseminate by these areas) accessing support services.

IV. Implementing the SDGs



Findings from workshop

A workshop addressing measuring SDG16 in Vanuatu was held on 2nd August at Moorings Hotel in Port Vila. Participants included representatives from government agencies (such as the VNSO), civil society members and international actors. Participants were informed about the work being done with support from UNDP on monitoring SDG16 in Vanuatu. The prospect of an expert survey as a quick and cheap method for getting supplementary or interim measures was discussed.

During the workshop, potential short-term actions towards operationalising the NSDP and completing linked SDG targets by 2020 were discussed. These included outlining the different actions from the various actors in the room: government; civil society; and international actors. Through this process, it was highlighted that the relationship between government and civil society has not been clarified when it comes to implementing the SDGs and NSDP. Some of the challenges in alignment relate to differing objectives: civil society organisations tend to have a narrower focus on a particular project or location, whereas the government tends to have broader, countrywide goals. Nevertheless, all sides expressed a strong desire for greater coordination and collaboration between civil society and government.

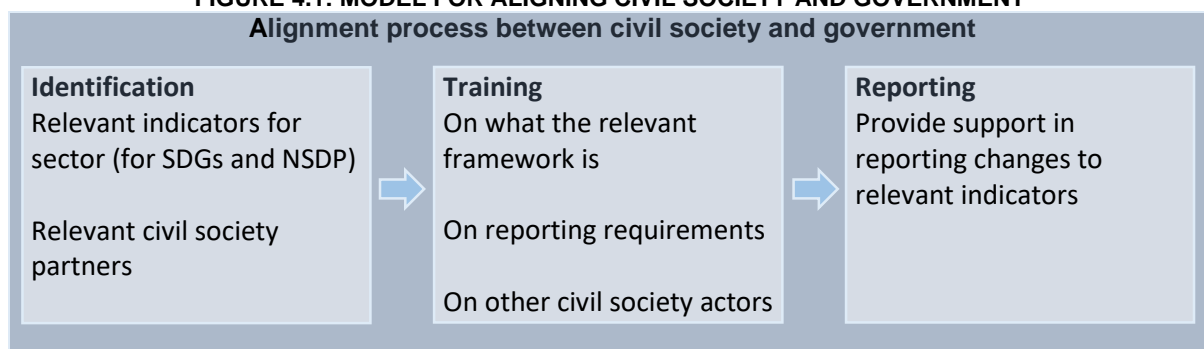
The following recommendations were raised:

1) Increase discussions between civil society and government on SDGs and NSDP

In order to align civil society and government towards effective action for the SDGs and NSDP, there needs to be better training and support for civil society. Most fundamentally, this entails informing civil society actors of the NSDP and how it interacts with the SDGs. There was a request from civil society for the government to have meetings with all relevant civil society actors to discuss how they can work together for a common purpose. All ministries should know who the civil society partners are and work with them.

The Ministry of Justice has undertaken a process which could be replicated across the ministries. This process, outlined below, recognises that civil society is essential for effective reporting and progress in the SDGs and NSDP.

FIGURE 4.1: MODEL FOR ALIGNING CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENT



Notably, the Ministry of Justice is the only ministry thus far with an employee specifically allocated to Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). It is expected that other ministries will be bringing M&E resources on-board as resources allow, with job descriptions already written for many ministries. The M&E focus-point across the ministries is designed to assist with reporting for the NSDP and the Annual Development Report.

2) Better co-ordination of aid activity

Co-ordination of donor activities is an objective under the NSDP under the Society Pillar - 6.8 calls for Vanuatu to “Coordinate donor resources to align with national objectives.” It was stated that most donor activities occur through the government, specifically with the Department of Strategic Policy Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC). If a project is relevant to a particular ministry, DSPPAC ensures that the activity goes through the relevant ministry. It was felt by some that donor activity has not always been effectively co-ordinated and that donors are over-reliant on International Non-Government Organisations (INGOs).

Civil society expressed some frustration about the proliferation of INGOs operating in Vanuatu, particularly in the aftermath of Cyclone Pam. The increased presence of INGOs reflects the uneven power dynamic with donor and recipient countries, but more importantly a lack of co-ordination with local partners. Frustrations included the challenges associated with funding as it was felt that resources were channelled away from local NGOs towards INGOs. However, it was also expressed as a programmatic issue. INGOs want to work with local NGOs with project implementation due to their better understanding of the context and more extensive local networks. This raised issues for planning and scheduling of resources for local NGOs as they are often not involved in the design of INGO projects, but are required to assist later on. It was requested that INGOs include local partners much earlier in the process, preferably in the design phase. Furthermore, it was requested that the assistance of local NGOs be recognised and respected.

3) Increase support for VANGO

Vanuatu Association of Non-Government Organisations (VANGO) is an umbrella organisation for NGOs in Vanuatu. VANGO is a member of the Pacific Islands Association of NGOs (PIANGO) which is the regional coalition of NGOs across the Pacific Islands. It was recently revived in 2017 and was restructured by sectors to increase co-ordination. These sectors are the environment, human rights and health.

VANGO is designed to co-ordinate and work with government and donors, but is under-resourced. It is hoped that VANGO can be the contact for all donor-funded projects in Vanuatu to better connect with partners and activity happening on the ground. Through greater collaboration, it is also hoped that civil society can come together and advocate policy changes based on collective experiences.

An issue that VANGO is keen to resolve is that local civil societies often cannot write proposals at the level required by donors. As such they are unable to compete for funding. One possible solution would be to introduce a shared services model for members of VANGO. This could include access to proposal writers, administration staff, accountancy and financial record keeping.

4) Develop an implementation plan for the SDGs and NSDP with civil society

Civil society is viewed as a key partner in implementing the SDGs and NSDP. One participant stated “civil society are the feet and fingers for implementing the SDGs and NSDP.” This is particularly true

in Vanuatu with the limited resources of government. Internal Affairs Minister Andrew Napuat has expressed the need to avoid duplicated efforts and to increase collaboration between government and civil society organisations. An important step towards ensuring this takes place is involving civil society in the development of an implementation plan. Representatives from civil society expressed their desire to know how they can be involved in implementing and reporting changes. An example of how this could be done is shown below.²⁹

FIGURE 4.2: EXAMPLE PRIORITIES FOR ACTION FOR VANUATU FOR 2020 FOR SDG16.5

SDG 16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms		
NSDP SOC 5.2: Establish and implement a National Anti-Corruption Framework SOC 5.2.1 Number of Anti-Corruption committee submissions acted upon		
Priority Actions		
Government	Civil Society	International partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement enforcement and regulatory aspects of National Anti-Corruption Committee - Develop measures to track progress in reducing corruption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further develop advocacy tools for monitoring implementation of National Anti-Corruption Framework - Put in Right to Information request on areas relevant to budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - United Nations Pacific Regional Anti-Corruption (UN-PRAC) Project Phase II 2016-2020 - Respond to government and NGO requests for support in design of tools for more transparent service delivery.

FIGURE 4.3: EXAMPLE PRIORITIES FOR ACTION FOR VANUATU FOR 2020 FOR SDG16.3

SDG 16.3: Promote rule of law and access to justice for all		
NSDP SOC 5.1: Ensure all people have timely and equitable access to independent, well-resourced justice institutions		
Priority Actions		
Government	Civil Society	International partners
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement Justice and Community Services Sector Capacity Development Strategy 2017-2020 - Reduce Magistrate and Supreme Court pending cases - Decrease average cost of legal fees/services for a court case 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advocate for the development of a family law court. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist in implementing recommendations from 'Women and Children's Access to the Formal Justice System in Vanuatu' report by UNWOMEN

²⁹ Adapted from Saferworld, 'Building a peaceful, just and inclusive Somaliland: SDG16+ priorities for action', May 2018 Briefing, <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/1173-building-a-peaceful-just-and-inclusive-somaliland-sdg16-priorities-for-action>

V. Recommendations



Further to the recommendations raised during the workshop listed above.

Measurement and access

- Prioritise, through the NSDP, what is measured and monitored. Measurement and monitoring progress is only meaningful if aligned with policies.
 - Establish a work plan for when NSDP/SDG priorities should be aligned with policy.
- At this early stage of the 2030 Global Agenda, prioritising and localising the SDGs should take priority over expensive data collections. Rather than emphasising new potentially expensive surveys or data collections, there should be greater recognition of the data sources currently available.
 - Prioritise proxy solutions for data gaps. Some proxy sources have been highlighted in this report, such as using data from the Vanuatu Women's Centre for violence against women. Proxy indicators are very useful for suggesting whether something is improving or deteriorating.
- Recognise the need for further data collection.
 - Some gaps in data need to be supplemented by new data production, including through surveys.
- Make available data more accessible to all citizens. In order for data to meaningfully inform policy and advocacy, it cannot be simply in a database (or filing cabinet). It needs to be available in a format which is most useful for Ni-Vans.
 - Have visual measures of performance for the NSDP and SDGs. This could be in the form of a poster, a graphic in the newspaper or possibly something accessible through mobile phones.
- Recognise civil society organisations and business have a role in monitoring as well as delivering on the SDGs.
 - Include civil society organisations, traditional governance mechanisms and businesses in measuring as they often have access to different data than government sources. Furthermore, they should be included in monitoring as they are often consumers of data

as well as some of the instruments of change. Emphasising a sustained systematic consultation process and consultation mechanisms is key to success for the SDGs.

- Engage the relevant governmental ministries in the process of collecting and analysis.
 - Relevant ministries should be engaged in what should be collected. The decision to have a Monitoring and Evaluation focal point for each ministry is an encouraging step. However, the ministries should be more proactive in identifying which indicators would be most useful for them to monitor progress.
- Continue to localise the SDGs. This is an iterative process which should reflect changed capacity and priorities.
 - Focus on SDG targets over explicit indicators to encourage measurements which are of more relevance to Vanuatu and more readily available.
- Ensure high-level political ownership continues to ensure collaboration of data-producing government institutions.
 - This was the finding of the UNDP SDG 16 monitoring pilot.³⁰ Support from Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination (DSPPAC) will be essential to reducing institutional resistance to sharing data.

Implementation

- Increase the usefulness of data for government activity.
 - Use data and analysis not just to formulate policy, but during annual budget negotiations across the ministries.
- Create a more co-ordinated aid environment which links the NSDP and SDGs with the work of development partners.
 - It was suggested the revamping of VANGO will encourage this to occur, but VANGO needs greater support for it to have meaningful impact.
- Recognise the distinction between monitoring and policy.
 - Institutionalise monitoring against targets within planning frameworks at the ministry level.
- Increase discussions between civil society and government on SDGs and NSDP.
 - Develop an implementation plan for the SDGs and NSDP with civil society.
- Embrace short-term targets.
 - Develop interim goals for 2020 and reprioritise based on measures of progress or stagnation against goals.

³⁰ http://www.undp.org/content/dam/norway/undp-ogc/documents/Monitoring%20to%20Implement%20SDG16_Pilot%20Initiative_main.pdf

Appendix

Appendix A: Workshop Agenda

Description:

This is a workshop addressing about measuring Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG16) relating to peace, justice and strong institutions. The UNDP Pacific Office in Suva, Fiji is supporting DSSPAC to put together a measure of SDG16 in Vanuatu. This is building off work done on measuring SDG16 already done across the Pacific in the report “Measuring Peace in the Pacific”). It is very timely in Vanuatu with the current planning of the NSDP Baseline Survey and the Voluntary National Reporting (VNR) of the SDGs which is scheduled for mid-next year.

Outcomes:

- Participants informed about the work being done with support from UNDP on monitoring SDG16 in Vanuatu
- Experiment with a new way of getting information quickly and cheaply (expert survey)
- Begin process of priorities for action with government, civil society and international partners
- Generate list of recommendations for supporters of Vanuatu

Time	Minutes	Activity
8:00	30	Set-up room
8:30	30	Coffee and food
9:00	7	Opening remarks by John Ezra
9:10	5	Introduction to SDG16
9:15	15	Data availability for monitoring SDG16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Main sources of data - Results of audit - Challenges
9:30	15	Expert survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trying new approaches for quick and cheap data gathering - Example with corruption
9:45	15	Relevance of SDG16 to Vanuatu <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alignment between NSDP and SDG16 - Regional priorities
10:00	15	Priorities for action 2018–20 exercise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SDG/NSDP aligned with practical goals
10:15	5	Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exercise with SDG16.8 (Broaden and strengthen participation)
10:20	35	Open discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how can Vanuatu be supported in this?
10:55	5	Thank you and farewell
11:00	60	Further conversations if people want (and please use up and take all the food and coffee!)