



VANUATU

COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

2023-2024



UNITED NATIONS
FIJI, SOLOMON ISLANDS,
TONGA, TUVALU AND
VANUATU



Foreword

This Country Implementation Plan for 2023 – 2024 (CIP) builds upon the Pacific United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2023-2027 (Cooperation Framework) developed by the United Nations (UN) and 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). It has been developed through extensive and inclusive consultations with the Government of Vanuatu and the UN development system in Vanuatu, including non-resident entities.

The CIP aims to define the UN actions and deliverables in Vanuatu to help achieve the outcomes of the Cooperation Framework and is firmly anchored to country-level needs and structures. The UN and the Government of Vanuatu are committed to working together to achieve the national development priorities, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and other internationally agreed development goals and treaty obligations. The CIP will guide the joint efforts, and the collective results expected will help Vanuatu to ensure all people are equal and free to exercise their fundamental rights, enjoy gender equality and peace, remain resilient to existential threats, and live in harmony with the Blue Pacific Continent.


In signing hereafter, the partners endorse this CIP and underscore their joint commitment toward the achievement of its results.

Government of Vanuatu



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Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADO	Asian Development Outlook
CATDDO	Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Operation
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CCCPIR	Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region Programme
CCT	Conditional Cash Transfers
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
DBS	Direct Budget Support
DFAT	Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade
DFI	Digital Finance Institution
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FFA	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency
FP	Family Planning
FPLAC	Family Protection and Legal Aid Centre
HDI	Human Development Index
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS
UNCDF	United Nations Capital Development Fund
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNV	United Nations Volunteer
UNWOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation

Background

Country Context and Development Trends

The Republic of Vanuatu is an archipelago of 83 islands, of which sixty-five are inhabited. Vanuatu possesses a total land area of 12,281 square kilometres, mostly mountainous, with narrow coastal plains, surrounded by an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 680,000 square kilometres.¹ The country's population is around 307,000.² Three-quarters of the population live in rural areas; the densest urban centres are Port-Vila and Luganville, located on Efate and Espiritu Santo islands, respectively. The four main islands of Efate, Espiritu Santo, Malekula and Tanna accommodate over sixty per cent of the population.

Vanuatu is a lower-middle-income country, with a gross national income (GNI) per capita of US\$2,780 in 2020 (down from US\$3,360 in 2019).³ Vanuatu was ranked in the medium human development category—140 of 189 assessed—and ahead of Papua-New Guinea and Solomon Islands among the Pacific Islands Countries (PICs) in the 2020 Human Development Report (HDR), with a Human Development Index (HDI) value of 0.609.⁵

Vanuatu graduated from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status⁴ in December 2020, at a time when it was suffering from the dual impacts of Category 5 Tropical Cyclone Harold and COVID-19 lockdowns. Its LDC Smooth Transition Strategy⁵ is premised on the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP)⁶, as its goals and policy objectives are interlinked with the LDC support measures, including poverty reduction, broadening the economic base, building capacity, institutional strengthening, and boosting international trade. Vanuatu has been granted an extension of international support measures related to aid for trade and participation in international forums, until 4 December 2025. After two years of closure due to COVID-19 measures, Vanuatu reopened its borders in July 2022 with flights from Australia and New Zealand.

After contracting by 5% in 2020, Vanuatu's economy grew by 1% in 2021 and 2% in 2022⁷. Challenges continue to be significant including distance from major markets, climate change, disaster vulnerability and limited options for economic diversification.

Vanuatu's disaster risk is the highest in the world, according to the World Risk Report 2021. Aside from cyclones, Vanuatu is at risk of volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, and climate-induced events, such as sea-level rise. Damage caused by Cyclone Harold, which struck in 2020, was estimated to be equivalent to more than 50% of GDP (Government of Vanuatu 2020).

On 3rd March 2023, the Vanuatu Prime Minister declared a national state of emergency due to the impacts of Tropical Cyclone (TC) Judy and TC Kevin which hit Vanuatu in quick succession. The Tropical Cyclones Judy & Kevin Recovery and Resilience Plan 2023 – 2027, released by the Government of Vanuatu in July

2023, states that total damage and loss of the twin cyclones was 51.2 billion VAV or USD \$433 million. The housing section was most impacted with 19 billion VAV in damage and loss, followed by agriculture with 13.5 billion, and finally by transport with 6.5 billion. A total of 197,388 people or 43,623 households were affected, representing 66% of the population. In terms of livelihoods, the twin cyclones affected 25,933 workers or 67% of the informal economy. In rural areas, crop losses were significant for farmers growing temporary, seasonal and cash crops. The resulting income losses risk increasing poverty and food insecurity in Vanuatu, especially for the most vulnerable. The Government's Recovery and Resilience Plan sets out objectives, principles and activities for recovery and resilience, aligned to Vanuatu's National Sustainable Development Plan – the People's Plan. Total recovery needs are estimated at 91.6 billion VAV or USD \$773 million. UN agencies supported immediate response efforts including undertaking the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and development of the Response and Recovery Plan and have begun diverting financial and human resources to support the Government's recovery and resilient objectives.

In May 2022, the Government of Vanuatu declared a climate emergency, highlighting the country's vulnerability to extreme weather events. Vanuatu is taking steps to reduce the adverse impact of climate change and disasters caused by natural hazards on its economy, including by investing in climate resilient infrastructure. The large costs associated with adaptation, mitigation, and damages from disasters means that accessing concessional resources, and mobilising domestic revenue, will be crucial to meet Vanuatu's development needs. Equally important will be the ongoing efforts to improve public investment management and build fiscal reserves to buffer against climate-induced shocks.



Adding together the cumulative cost of adaptation, mitigation and recovery for damages and losses from disasters, the Government estimates that the “real cost” of achieving Vanuatu’s National Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement will reach \$1.2 billion by 2030. Although expected to be spread over several years, this cost is about 120% of Vanuatu’s 2021 GDP. Based on Government of Vanuatu reports, around 60% of the cost is for adaptation, 26% for mitigation, and the remainder for recovery of losses and damages.

The frequency and severity of disasters also affects Vanuatu’s fiscal and debt sustainability. Damage to properties and livelihoods erode the economic base for revenue collection. Meanwhile, reconstruction and upgrading of infrastructure adds to expenditure, and can increase borrowing. For example, disbursements for reconstruction and upgrading of infrastructure following Cyclone Pam in 2015 contributed to an increase in public debt from the equivalent of 23% of GDP in 2014 to 45% in 2017.⁸ Given this, it is important for Vanuatu to continue its efforts to improve public investment management and build fiscal reserves to buffer against climate-induced shocks as well as to explore other financing options, such as green bonds.

The multiple risks that Vanuatu faces do not exist in isolation, and in many instances are interconnected and systemic, with compound and cascading impacts. The profile of risks due to climate change and geohazards has identified a reduced availability of fresh water; more pests and diseases of animals, crops and trees; saltwater inundation and intrusion of coastal land and groundwater; coral reef deterioration; reduced fisheries productivity; increased risk of human disease and health problems, including vector-borne and zoonotic disease transmission and heat-related illnesses; damage to infrastructure; loss of coastal land; and reduced economic growth and revenue generation.⁹ It is therefore critical to support the Government to take a cross-sectoral approach to risk management.

Vanuatu has largely been spared the civil and political unrest of neighboring Melanesian nations and consistently ranks as one of the happiest nations in the world¹⁰, but its economy is failing to meet the needs of an increasing and young population. Employment choices for youth remain very limited, while adolescent pregnancy is very high, reducing any advantage of the ‘demographic dividend’ with the increased cohorts of young people not engaged in education, employment or training. To date, digital transformation has been limited in Vanuatu which reduces opportunities for economic diversification. Financial exclusion is a reality in Vanuatu.

Gender equality remains a major challenge in Vanuatu. Discriminatory gender stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes persist regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in society and in the family.¹¹ Patriarchal norms and traditional cultural practices reinforce women’s subordinate position in society. Women and girls in Vanuatu also suffer exclusion in many aspects of public life, particularly in education. Gender-based violence (GBV) and violence against women and girls (VAWG) are at endemic levels with widespread community tolerance of both. The nation’s health and education infrastructure are not fit for purpose. There is a lack

of access to adequate family planning, a problem most acutely experienced by girls and women, although it impacts the entire economy. The country's formal social protection system needs strengthening, as assessed by ADB's Social Protection Indicator.¹² The majority of social protection funding is spent on social insurance contributory schemes with social assistance measures much more limited.

Vanuatu has acceded to five of the core human rights treaties as an expression of the country's commitments under international human rights norms and standards, and engagement with international human rights treaties and processes. This includes the Convention Against Torture; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women; Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Vanuatu is encouraged to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Vanuatu can count on the United Nations system to provide assistance in its recovery and rebuilding efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic and recent natural disasters. The UN will support sustainable and inclusive development while also helping to build resilience against future disasters. This will ensure a prosperous, bright and secure future for all Ni-Vanuatu, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and Vanuatu 2030 plan.

Leave No One Behind

The concept of Leave no one behind (LNOB) is a fundamental principle of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is a commitment made by all UN Member States to eradicate poverty, discrimination and exclusion, and reduce the inequalities and vulnerabilities. LNOB is not limited to reaching the poorest of the poor, but also involves addressing discrimination and rising inequalities within and amongst countries.

In Vanuatu, the most at risk and vulnerable groups include women and girls, women survivors of violence, children, young women and boys, people with disabilities, inhabitants of the outer islands, and families living in poverty or hardship.¹³ The rate of hardship for Vanuatu, defined as those individuals living below the "National Poverty Line" (NPL), is estimated to be 15.9%, with 96.7% of people in hardship living in rural areas. This translates to approximately 47,000 individuals living in hardship nationwide with the greatest in Tafea (14,066), Malampa (9,069), rural Sanma (8,706) and Penama (5,204).¹⁴

Households in hardship have less educated adults and derive less income from employment. People in hardship, and more generally all rural households, are less connected to services such as public water and the electricity grid. Many of Vanuatu's

islands experience frequent natural hazards, which can result in temporary or extended displacement, often on a repeated basis. Women, children, people living with disabilities, the sick, widows, single parent, the elderly, and those living in remote areas are disproportionately impacted by climate change and disasters. A large proportion of the country relies heavily on direct access to natural resources for their daily survival, and environmental changes can influence the rate of forced movement as land and natural resources become less productive and habitable. Reports suggest that internal displacement contributes to commercial sex work amongst women and girls.¹⁵ Further anecdotal information about internal trafficking suggests instances involving Ni-Vanuatu men, women, and children who are subjected to forced labour, especially in the form of domestic work.¹⁶

Informal employment is a significant issue in Vanuatu, with 66.9% of employed persons being informally employed. Women are more likely to be informally employed than men, with 68.7% of employed women in informal employment compared to 65.5% of men.¹⁷ Informal employment is highest in the agriculture, forestry, and fishery sectors, followed by the industry and service sectors. Market vending is an important driver of local economic development, with women making up the majority of vendors. Despite easy entry and flexibility, market vending has downsides, including long hours, difficult working conditions, lack of social and legal protections, and lack of professional development opportunities.

Gender equality is a pressing issue in Vanuatu and needs to be address urgently. Despite efforts to promote gender equality, society still holds onto discriminatory gender stereotypes and patriarchal attitudes persist regarding the roles and responsibilities of women and men in society and in the family.¹⁸ These attitudes prevent women from asserting their rights and actively participating in decision-making and other aspects of political and public life. Among women aged 15-49 who have ever been married, lived with a man, or had an intimate sexual relationship with a partner, 3 in 5 (60%) experienced physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime.¹⁹ There is a persistence of harmful practices such as underage marriage, bride price and accusations of witchcraft against women that lead to violence or murder.

Vanuatu faces several challenges in ensuring the protection and promotion of human rights for all its citizens. Children in Vanuatu are at a higher risk of poverty, with households with children being more likely to live below the national poverty line.²⁰ Violence against children is prevalent, with 84% of Ni-Vanuatu children experiencing violent discipline at home, and children facing exploitation in the form of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation.²¹ Children in Vanuatu also face challenges in accessing education and healthcare and face exclusion and inequalities in the labor market.²²

While same-sex sexual conduct is not criminalised in Vanuatu, violence against the LGBTIQ+ community remains a widespread issue in Vanuatu and there are no policies currently in place to protect people from discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics. Transgender people are not to change their gender markers on legal documents. This leads to greater discrimination in employment, since their gender identities and expressions do not match their legal documents.²³

People with disabilities in Vanuatu experience prejudice, discrimination, and limited access to healthcare and education. Approximately 28,000 people, or 12% of the population in Vanuatu were classified as people with disabilities (PWDs) in 2009, with a higher prevalence in rural areas (13.7%) compared to urban areas (3.4%)²⁴. In 2019, the incidence of disability in Vanuatu decreased to 6.4%, with the highest prevalence among people aged 65 and over.²⁵ Discrimination on the basis of disability disproportionately impacts women and girls due to the intersectionality of their gender, disability, and age.²⁶ Children with disabilities face exclusion and higher levels of vulnerability. Legislation regarding the rights of PWDs in Vanuatu has improved, but gaps still exist in areas such as equality and non-discrimination, accessibility, and access to justice.

Accessing HIV testing in Vanuatu is challenging due to logistical issues, widespread population, low health literacy, and stigma towards key populations.²⁷ While 90% of people have heard of AIDS, only 1 in 5 have adequate knowledge of HIV, and there is low tolerance towards people living with HIV, making it a concern given the high rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and risk factors for HIV transmission in Vanuatu.²⁸

Efforts must be made to address these challenges and ensure that all citizens of Vanuatu are able to enjoy their human rights without discrimination or prejudice.



Progress Towards The 2030 Agenda

SDG Dashboard

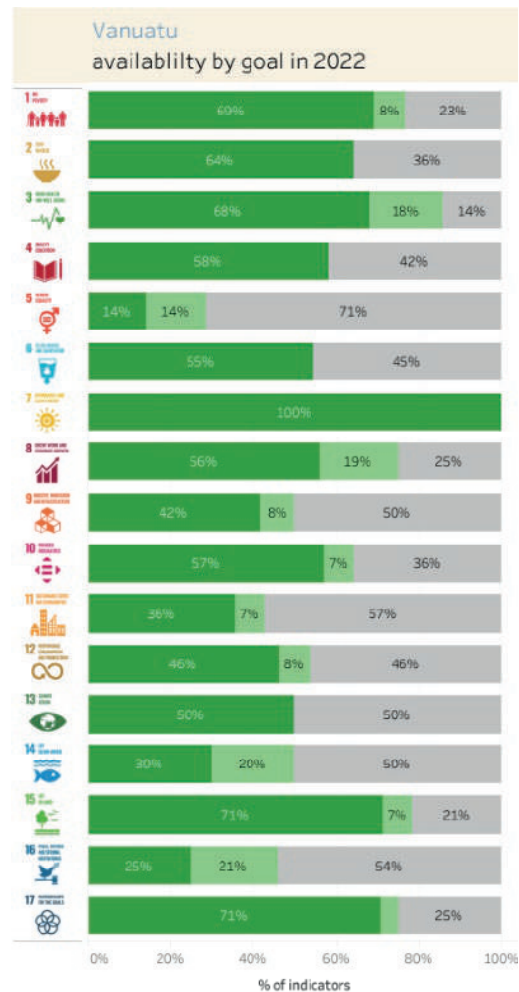
Vanuatu’s progress towards the 2030 Agenda displays heterogeneity across the SDGs as illustrated in the Sustainable Development Report (SDR) dashboard below.



Source: 2022 Sustainable Development Report, SDSN.

Looking at data availability by SDG, and as shown in the chart below, while Vanuatu continues to be in a relatively better position than the rest of the Pacific in data, significant data gaps remain in Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 14 (life under water) and Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), each with less than 30 per cent sufficient data available. Opportunities for improvement remain visible in areas such as disaggregated data by gender, age groups (children, adolescent/youth and adult), and island groups. Such detail will enable a better understanding of equality issues, geographical challenges, age-appropriate interventions that can push forward development, particularly for SDGs indicators that are lagging or need acceleration.

UNDP is supporting the Civil Registration and Identity Management (CRIM) Department to bridge the data gap by providing technical assistance for a new foundational identity database, RV5. This central register database has the potential to provide real time data on registered citizens with capacity to provide demographically disaggregated data for different age groups with gender breakdown as well as information on persons with disability. Currently, over 95% of the citizens are registered with the CRIM department.



National Priorities and SDG Acceleration

Vanuatu's National Sustainable Development Plan (Vanuatu 2030 – The People's Plan 2016-2030) charts the country's vision and overarching policy framework for achieving a prosperous Vanuatu within the next fifteen years. It strikes a balance between the social, environmental and economic pillars of sustainable development, with Vanuatu's cultural heritage as the foundation of an inclusive society. Melanesian values of respect, harmony, unity and forgiveness are invoked as shaping this cultural heritage and being part of the country's strengths. Such values are expressed through oral traditions, languages, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, traditional knowledge, and deep connections with ancestors, land and place. The planning framework and the M&E are developed to consolidate the implementation and monitoring of progress over time across all sectors of the national economy.

Vanuatu 2030 - The People's Plan succeeds the "Priorities and Action Agenda 2006-2015" which sought to deliver a just, educated, healthy and wealthy Vanuatu, the first concerted attempt to link policy and planning to the limited resources of government. The Vanuatu 2030 Plan highlights the need for responsive and capable state institutions, an economy based on equitable sustainable growth, and enhanced resilience to climate change and natural hazards. The Plan is articulated through 15 national SDGs grouped around 3 pillars:

- **societal goals** - vibrant cultural identity, quality education, quality healthcare, social inclusion, security, peace and justice, strong and effective institutions;
- **environmental goals** - food and nutrition security, blue-green economic growth, climate and disaster resilience, natural resource management, ecosystems and biodiversity, and
- **economy goals** - stable and equitable growth, improved infrastructure, strengthened rural communities, jobs and business opportunities.

Noting the significant impacts of Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin in March 2023, an immediate and short-to-medium term priority for the Government is response and recovery efforts. This is guided by the Government's Tropical Cyclones Judy & Kevin Recovery and Resilience Plan 2023 – 2027. The Plan sets out a vision 'to rebuild and recover from the damage caused by the twin cyclones, while also 'building back better' to reinforce individual and collective resilience and to contribute to the achievement of The People's Plan.' It is informed by and aligned with, the pillars and objectives of The People's Plan. As set out in the Recovery and Resilience Plan, the objectives of recovery are to:

- **repair and rebuild damaged infrastructure and facilities;**
- **restore basic services and people's access to these services;**
- **sustainably restore agricultural production and livelihoods, establish new economic opportunities, and enhance food security for affected population;**
- **build back better and strengthen resilience against future adverse events;**
- **strengthen the capacity of institutions and vulnerable groups, including the poor, women, girls, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.**

Alignment of UNSDCF to Vanuatu 2030 – The People’s Plan

The development interventions of the United Nations System are closely aligned to Vanuatu’s National Sustainable Development Plan (Vanuatu 2030 – The People Plan 2016-2030).

The table below provides a broad overview of how the UN System’s interventions through the four pillars of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2023-27 – Planet, People, Prosperity, Peace - are aligned with the three pillars of The People Plan – Society, Environment, Economy.

Further information on how specific UN interventions align with Vanuatu’s National Sustainable Development Plan and objectives can be found in Section 5 b) of this document or by referring to individual UN agency programs and activity workplans.

In light of the Government’s Tropical Cyclones Judy & Kevin Recovery and Resilience Plan 2023 – 2027, released in July 2023, UN agencies are reviewing existing programmes and initiatives to support the objectives and activities outlined in the Plan across the society, environment and economy pillars.

UNSDCF (2023-27) Pillars	Vanuatu Sustainable Development Plan 2016-30 Pillars and Goals		
	Society Pillar	Environment Pillar	Economy Pillar
Planet Pillar		ENV 3 – Climate and Disaster Resilience ENV 4 – Natural Resource Management ENV 5 – Ecosystems and Biodiversity	
People Pillar	SOC 2 – Quality Education SOC 3 – Quality Health Care SOC 4 – Social Inclusion	ENV 1 – Food and Nutrition Security	
Prosperity Pillar	SOC 1 – Vibrant Cultural Identity	ENV 2 – Blue-Green Economic Growth	ECO 1 – Stable and Equitable Growth ECO 2 – Improve Infrastructure ECO 3 – Strengthen Rural Communities ECO 4 – Create jobs and business opportunities
Peace Pillar	SOC 4 – Social Inclusion SOC 5 – Security, Peace and Justice SOC 6 – Strong and Effective Institutions		

Vanuatu Country Implementation Plan

Cooperation Framework

The UNSDCF is the instrument agreed by United Nations (UN) member states and the UN system for the planning and implementation of the UN development interventions. In the Pacific, the UN, together with the 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), resolved to develop an overarching UNSDCF 2023-2023 in line with the regional strategies, 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent; the SPC Strategic Plan 2022-2031 and the Framework for Resilient Developments in the Pacific 2017-2030. The UN system aspires to a Pacific region where “All people, leaving no place behind, are equal and free to exercise their fundamental rights, enjoying gender equality and peace, resilient to the existential threats and living in harmony with the blue continent.”

The new Cooperation Framework for the Pacific is based on 4 priorities areas: i) Prosperity; ii) People; iii) Planet; and iv) Peace; which are directly articulated to the four outcomes identified in the UN CF that contribute to the seven thematic areas identified by the 2050 Strategy and the other key regional strategies. The key areas and outcomes identified in the Cooperation Framework are common to all 14 PICTs. Below is a figure that summarises the articulation of the Cooperation Framework with regional and national priorities.

Stakeholder Consultations

The UN team conducted comprehensive consultations with national government and civil society organisations (CSOs) in Vanuatu in February 2023 to ensure that the CIP is aligned with country-level needs and structures. The UN consultation team presented an overview of the Pacific UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the purpose and approach of the CIP and heard from stakeholders on priorities, opportunities and proposed engagement mechanisms. The government consultations’ feedback is outlined in the CIP summary section, while consultations with development partners could not take place due to their engagement with the response to the impacts of Tropical Cyclones Kevin and Judy in March 2023.

The 13 CSOs participating in the consultation emphasised the importance of mainstreaming gender equality and disability inclusion in the CIP. Stronger youth engagement was also seen as a priority including youth forums and youth parliament – to empower youth to use their voice and share opinions. There is an opportunity to build greater public awareness of UN accountability processes such as the Universal Periodic Review as well as increased information sharing on good practice between the UN and CSOs. CSOs noted the importance of supporting traditional systems of governance and customary land boundaries as well as formal institutions of justice and police. For future generations, there is an opportunity to document traditional systems of governance that support peace and protection. CSOs highlighted the issue of lack of UN engagement at the provincial level, as well of a CROP – UN Pacific Islands Taskforce.

as national, level of government. Formalities to coordinate among the responsible government agencies and provincial government need to be strengthened to increase the visibility of the UN at the community level. Further, CSOs discussed strengthening digital infrastructure and connectivity as critical for improved service delivery to communities and for economic development.

Overall, the UN team’s consultations with National Government and CSOs in Vanuatu provided valuable feedback to ensure that the CIP is responsive to country-level needs and structures. The UN team will continue to work with partners to strengthen engagement mechanisms and increase the UN’s impact in-country.

PACIFIC COOPERATION FRAMEWORK			
UN 2030 Vision for the Pacific Region			
<p>“All people in the Pacific, leaving no place behind, are equal and free to exercise their fundamental rights, enjoying gender equality and peace, resilient to the existential threats and living in harmony with the blue continent.”</p>			
<p>Regional Strategies: i) 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent; ii) the SPC Strategic Plan 2022-2031; and iii) the Framework for Resilient Developments in the Pacific 2017-2030</p>			
 Planet	 People	 Prosperity	 Peace
<p>Resilience to shocks/ CC and ecosystems restoration</p> <p><i>Outcome 1</i></p> <p>By 2027, people, communities and institutions are more empowered and resilient to face diverse shocks and disasters, especially related to climate change, and ecosystems and biodiversity are better protected, managed and restored.</p>	<p>Access and quality to essential services, social protection systems and nutrition</p> <p><i>Outcome 2</i></p> <p>By 2027, more people, particularly those at risk of being left behind, benefit from more equitable access to resilient, and gender-responsive, quality basic services, food security/nutrition and social protection systems</p>	<p>Equal opportunities for decent jobs and livelihoods</p> <p><i>Outcome 3</i></p> <p>By 2027, more people, especially those at risk of being left behind, contribute to and benefit from sustainable, resilient, diversified, inclusive and human-centred socio-economic systems with decent work and equal livelihoods opportunities, reducing inequalities and ensuring shared prosperity.</p>	<p>Peace, Human Rights, gender equality and participation</p> <p><i>Outcome 4</i></p> <p>By 2027, people enjoy and contribute to more accountable, inclusive, resilient and responsive governance systems that promote gender equality, climate security, justice and peace, ensure participation, and protect their human rights</p>
<p>Enablers: Civil society engagement / Innovation and Digitalization / Harnessing the demographic dividend / Disaggregated data for development / Partnership for development & realisation of HR & GE / HVI based financing / Capacity development / Traditional knowledge and culture / South – South & triangular cooperation</p>			
<p>Intersectional approach: Resilience to existential threats / Gender Equality / People empowered to exercise their rights / Harmony with the blue continent</p>			
<p>LNOB: Women and girls/ Person with disabilities/ Persons living with HIV / Children / Youth / Indigenous people / LGBTIQ+ people / Older persons / Migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers/ Detained person / Victims of trafficking and others form of violence/ Dwellers of informal urban settlements / people engaged in the informal economy and vulnerable employment / People living in remote poor, rural areas and outer islands.</p>			

The UN team also engaged in a dedicated consultation with the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) to ensure alignment in the implementation of the Pacific UNSDCF and the CIP with the implementation plan for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, as well as to support greater joint planning and programming at the country level. This work is supported through the establishment of a CROP – UN Pacific Islands Taskforce.

Vanuatu Country Implementation Plan

The UN has been collaborating with the Government of Vanuatu and other stakeholders in two main ways. The first is through operational agencies working closely with national counterparts, and the second is by including Vanuatu in regional and international processes. This commitment to south-south, triangular and international cooperation allows for the merging of national knowledge and operational experience with technical expertise and access to international best practices. This is a critical comparative advantage of the UN in the Pacific.

The Government of Vanuatu has identified priority areas for action by the UN in consultations on the CIP, which have been reflected under each of the four pillars of the CIP. The UN interventions discussed and captured in the accompanying results frameworks represent both general and specific responses to these requests from Government. However, financial and human resource constraints pose unique challenges for the UN system in Vanuatu and the Pacific, requiring difficult choices and an acknowledgement that there are areas where the UN does not possess a comparative advantage to act.

Recovery efforts from TC Judy and Kevin will account for a large share of UN collaboration in Vanuatu for the remainder of 2023 and into 2024, with UN agencies reviewing existing programmes and initiatives to support delivery of the Government's Recovery and Resilience Plan. This will be detailed in an updated CIP during the annual review planned for late 2023/early 2024.



PILLAR 1: PLANET

Outcome 1: By 2027, people, communities, and institutions are more empowered and resilient to face diverse shocks and disasters, especially related to climate change, and ecosystems and biodiversity are better protected, managed, and restored.

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

- **Strengthening environmental protection and conservation**
 - Improving waste management
 - Improving access to renewable energy
- **Capacity building in preparedness, response and recovery**
 - Strengthening humanitarian response coordination
- **Strengthening legal frameworks and policies and supporting their implementation**
 - Improving data management

The following areas were also identified during consultations and require further inter-agency discussions including with partners to identify potential interventions to address them: researching and integrating traditional and modern resilience approaches; and supporting climate resilient planning, infrastructure and practices.

Agencies	Partners	Indicative Resources 2023-2024 (USD)		
		Required	Available	To mobilise
ESCAP, FAO, IFAD, IAEA, IOM, ITU, OHCHR, UNCDF, UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women WFP, WMO and WHO	Ministries of Justice & Community Services; Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries, and Biosecurity; Climate Change & Planning; Foreign Affairs; Lands & Natural Resources; NDMO, national youth councils, Pacific Disability Forum, OGCIO, Pacific Islands Farmers Organisation Network, faith-based organisations, insurance companies, USP, SPC, SPREP, PIFS, FFA	\$20,485,062	\$10,438,871	\$10,046,191

With building resilience to the impacts of climate change and disasters a key priority for the Government, interventions under the Planet Pillar have a strong focus on enhanced climate change adaptation and resilience and effective disaster management, covering four sub-outcome areas and 47 outputs. There is also a key focus on environmental protection and conservation.

Ecosystem and Biodiversity Management

In line with Vanuatu's Sustainable Development Plan environment outcome 5 on ecosystems and biodiversity, the UN agencies including UNEP, FAO, UNDP, UNESCO and ESCAP will support the mainstreaming of biodiversity and sound chemical management in agriculture; strengthen the prevention, early warning and management of pests and diseases, including invasive alien species; improve the sound management of chemicals and waste and support key stakeholders to address environmental challenges and improve environmental management.

UNDP will address biodiversity loss and degradation in Vanuatu through generating co-benefits in the form of nature-based solutions to enhance climate change resilience particularly through 'protected area' creation and management, and

sustainable land management. UNDP will also contribute to building ecosystem resilience and monitoring ecosystem health through baselines including climate change resilience indicators for project sites.

In line with Vanuatu's Sustainable Development Plan environment outcome 4 on natural resource management, FAO will support the ministries of agriculture, fisheries, lands, natural resources and climate change to strengthen community and ecosystem-based integrated natural resource management, and sustainable utilisation. UNESCO will provide capacity development and technical advice on management, protection and use of natural resources through enhanced scientific cooperation.

FAO will also work to increase Vanuatu's ability to combat marine pollution and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing including the use of satellite technologies. ESCAP will provide capacity development for the protection of the oceans and sustainable fisheries management. UNEP will support the phasing out of the use of plastic bags and polystyrene products, noting the significant threat of marine litter to the Pacific Ocean. UNESCO will support preservation of natural and cultural heritage by implementing priority actions identified in the Regional Action Plan for World Heritage for the Pacific 2021-2025. This will include the development of a regional world heritage collaboration mechanism for the implementation of the Convention and effective coordination with other relevant organisations. Capacity development support will be provided to national efforts to review and update the Tentative List of potential World Heritage and support links of heritage preservation to sustainable tourism and land management.

Climate Change Action

In line with Vanuatu's Sustainable Development Plan environment outcome 3 on climate and disaster resilience, the UN - including FAO, IAEA, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP and WFP - will focus on the increased use of evidence-based approaches and nature-based solutions in building resilience and adaptive capacity among community and institutional actors. This will include working with fishing communities to adapt to climate change threats while enhancing water-food security and climate resilience. It will also include creating climate-resilient water supply systems, shifting to larger, centralised systems and using an ecosystem-based adaptation approach to ensure reliable and sustainable water supply. Behaviour change and communication techniques will be used to strengthen capacities for nutrition-sensitive agriculture extension.

UNDP will expand its solar innovation work to create more solar opportunities for the large rural population and semi-urban population of Vanuatu. UNDP will also work on improving the resilience of the vulnerable areas and communities to the impacts of climate change through the conservation of biodiversity and natural ecosystems and the implementation of integrated approaches to sustain livelihoods, food production and biodiversity conservation and reduce land degradation. Building on existing systems, UNCDF will support the trial of performance-based grants for

climate resilient projects at the sub-national level.

UNICEF will work to strengthen policies for integrated waste management, including hazardous waste and marine pollution. IAEA will work to enhance national capacities for the utilisation of mutation breeding techniques to achieve higher productivity and production and crop diversification to enhance food security, as well as the ability to plan and manage mutation breeding as an integral part of the national agricultural programme. IFAD will work to ensure farmers organisations are included in the shaping of a supportive business environment and smallholder competitiveness in the agriculture sector.

WFP and UNDP will support the Government's work programme to enhance planning, forecasting and warning systems. WFP will focus on the strengthening the capacities of the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) for data analysis and information dissemination for multi-hazard disaster early warning systems with a focus on those most vulnerable to climate shocks. This will include strengthening logistics and emergency tele-communications preparedness to enhance national resilience and supporting relevant institutions to respond to disasters more effectively. Enhanced gender-responsive actions on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and climate security across sectors will also be implemented. UNDP will also work on strengthening early warning systems at the national level to enhance the current capacities from infrastructure to human resources development. This will include addressing financial and human constraints for departments dealing with climate-related issues, particularly meteorology and environment. It will also include working with the Civil Registration and Identity Management (CRIM) Department of Government to ensure up-to-date population statistics that can be used pre or post disaster. ITU will continue its support on emergency telecommunications planning and response.

Climate change can potentially expand vector-borne diseases and disrupt health service delivery due to extreme weather events such as cyclones, floods, landslides, drought. WHO will work with the Government to address these issues and strengthen resilience to climate change through policy interventions; strengthening human resource capacity; conducting baseline assessments; improving surveillance and early warning systems for climate-sensitive diseases; retro-fitting healthcare facilities; and working with communities to build knowledge and resources to adapt to the health risks of climate change. IOM will support Government on the development of rights-based policies to address climate and disaster-induced displacement and mobility, and related durable solutions.

With regards to climate mitigation, UNEP and FAO will support policies, legislations and capacity building to phase out the consumption of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) in support of climate change mitigation. UNDP is support innovative finance for internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs) using a carbon dioxide equivalent [CO₂e] metric for a new set of market provisions or other greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation outcomes defined under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

Effective Disaster-Management

Given Vanuatu's vulnerability to a wide range of natural hazards, working to support effective disaster management brings together the largest number of agencies—UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO, FAO, WMO UNESCO, WFP ESCAP—and the majority of resources are spent under this sub-outcome area.

The WMO has a multi-component intervention that will support Vanuatu's ability to effectively participate in regional mechanisms and platforms for monitoring, detecting, predicting, preparing and disseminating early prediction and warning information and services on hydro-meteorological hazards and risks. It will help to develop a strategic vision that is aligned with national, regional and international frameworks. WMO will prioritise empowering women working in meteorology, hydrology, water resources, climate change and variability, and related environmental fields. UNESCO will partner with the National Tsunami Warning Centre (NSWC) and NDMO to ensure tsunami at-risk communities are officially recognised as Tsunami Ready by 2030. UNESCO will continue to advocate for the formal inclusion of culture in emergency management plans. UNICEF will continue to strengthen WASH systems in emergency and humanitarian emergencies.

Under the leadership of UN Women and UNFPA, the UN will focus on the needs of women and children with a particular focus on reducing violence during emergencies and disasters. Such interventions will aim to increase the meaningful inclusion of women, young people and persons with disabilities in decision-making in disaster risk reduction and climate. The UN will strengthen inter-agency coordination for both sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and gender-based violence (GBV) in emergencies. Policy advocacy will be conducted to ensure national and sub-national preparedness and response, disaster risk reduction and climate change strategies integrate language on sexual reproductive health and reproductive rights, gender-based violence, and disability inclusion and are sufficiently budgeted. Support will be provided for operational research to reinforce the policy advocacy, based on disaggregated data and intersectional analyses examining gaps and opportunities related to the SRH -climate change interlinkages for different vulnerable groups.

WHO will continue to support the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Climate Change and the health cluster for better coordination and collaboration during an emergency including the dispatch of the national emergency medical team (EMT) to support provinces. UNFPA will continue to support capacities of the health workforce for prepositioning and supply chain management to meet sexual reproductive health and rights and protection needs; and will intensify capacity development for the flagship Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for Reproductive Health in Crisis Situations, including for MISP inclusion in disaster risk reduction and climate change action plans.

WFP will work to strengthen data collection for food security and livelihoods to enable national authorities and humanitarian actors to analyse the vulnerability of populations and the impact of disasters and shocks and link this to policies and

programmes. Better coordination and information management will enhance national capacities to respond to disasters, while the provision of common logistics services will ensure more effective disaster management.

UNESCO will support the integration of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) safeguarding into disaster risk reduction strategies, helping communities prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies through capacity building approaches. Actions include community-based needs assessments and training, establishing national mechanisms and strategies through multi-stakeholder consultations, and intra- and inter-country cooperation through information exchange and networking.

UNDP is supporting sub-national planning guidelines including climate change, disaster and gender and social inclusion components. UNDP is also developing risk appraisal guidelines for the Department of Local Authorities' small scale community development projects. FAO will work to strengthen mechanisms to track mitigation/adaptation co-benefits. IFAD will work to enhance national capacities for the utilisation of isotopic techniques and relevant complementary methods to assess water resources in support of integrated water resource and coastal zone management. Efforts will be made to strengthen the national and subregional capabilities for the systematic assessment and resolution of water resource and coastal zone management issues to ensure access to clean water and management of water resources in a sustainable fashion.



PILLAR 2: PEOPLE

Outcome 2: By 2027, more people, particularly those at risk of being left behind, benefit from more equitable access to resilient, and gender-responsive, quality basic services, food security/nutrition, and social protection systems

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

- Strengthening capacity for high quality service
 - Improving health systems
 - Increasing health security
- Improving relevant, inclusive, quality learning & skill development
 - Transformed & resilient education system
 - Safe, inclusive learning environments
- Improving access to safe affordable services
- Supporting implementation of policies: Hygiene & Sanitation; National Water Policy & Strategy
 - Better integration across sectors/efforts
 - Improving food security & nutrition

The following area was also identified during consultations and requires further inter-agency discussions including with partners to identify potential interventions: improving equitable access to housing.

Agencies	Partners	Indicative Resources 2023-2024 (USD)		
		Required	Available	To mobilise
FAO, IAEA, IFAD, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, WFP, WHO	Ministries of Education & Training, Health; Finance & Economic Management; Foreign Affairs; Internal Affairs; Justice & Community Services; Youth & Sports Development; Pacific Council of Churches, PIFS, SPC, USP, national youth councils, women and youth focused NGOs, persons with disabilities organisations, media	\$20,115,355	\$9,845,307	\$10,270,048

The UN’s commitment to Leaving No One Behind is well reflected in the large number of interventions under the People Pillar. The interventions are spread across six sub-outcome areas and 53 specific outputs and represents an area of focus and strong comparative advantage for the UN in the Pacific. UN agencies have committed themselves to strengthen social protection mechanisms and in particular, the ability to identify and target the most vulnerable including women and children.

Child and Social Protection

In line with Vanuatu’s Sustainable Development Plan society outcome 4 on social inclusion, UN agencies have committed themselves to strengthening social protection mechanisms and, in particular, the ability to identify and target the most vulnerable including women and children. This includes the capacity of national authorities to assess Adaptive Social Protection (ASP) and Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) systems for Cash and Voucher (CVA) mechanisms including climate risk insurance. UNICEF will support the Government to strengthen capacities to deliver child-sensitive and shock-responsive social protection. Child protection systems and structures will have strengthened evidence, legal and policy frameworks to plan, coordinate, monitor and adequately resource the delivery and expansion of

quality and resilient child protection services. WFP will support government and humanitarian actors to mobilise and expand social protection tools and schemes in response to shocks and disasters with a focus on inclusivity and gender. People at risk of being left behind will benefit from increased access to social protection systems.

IFAD will support women and youth participating in income generation, decision-making and agribusiness activities. Support will be provided for the involvement of Government and communities to address the impacts of climate change. IFAD also will provide working capital for land preparation, access to improved planting materials, training in improved farming practices, and provision of labour-saving tools and training in order to improve food and nutrition security.

Public Health Systems

In support of Vanuatu's Sustainable Development Plan society outcome 3 on quality healthcare, UN agencies, in particular WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA, will come together to help strengthen public health systems in Vanuatu. WHO will continue its partnership with the Ministry of Health and has fully aligned its interventions with the various national health program strategies for communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and SRH and M&E framework of the Vanuatu Health Sector Strategy 2022-2030. In addition, the WHO will continue to support planning, surveillance and data monitoring capacities. In terms of creating an enabling environment, WHO will promote the new digital health strategy 2023-2025 and back the revision of the Health Committee Act to increase the skills of village health workers to deliver quality health service. WHO will also support the International Health Regulation (IHR) Joint External Evaluation (JEE) and help to amend/draft a new Public Health Act in line with international best practices.

The Ministry of Health and partners will be supported further develop capacities to ensure improved, affordable, and equitable quality primary health care and nutrition services and practices, including in emergencies. UNFPA will work to strengthen the pre- and in-service capacity of the midwifery and the sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn and adolescent health workforce. Emphasis will be given to quality sexual reproductive health services including emergency obstetric and newborn care, management of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and cervical cancer screening. UN support will also be given to scaling-up adolescent and youth access to quality youth-friendly and disability-inclusive sexual and reproductive health services and information.

UNAIDS will support the establishment of differentiated HIV testing, technology, approaches and differentiated service delivery models which include community-led and community-based services with equitable access to HIV medication, viral load testing and monitoring.

UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO will ensure the Government has strengthened capacities for climate and risk informed and evidence-based primary health care and

nutrition policy, planning and financing. Support will be given to accelerating policy engagement and advocacy by engaging and coordinating with the Government, implementing partners, UN agencies, regional entities and international financial institutions to strengthen policy formulation and implementation, domestic financing, accountability and coordination mechanisms, for integrating SRH, gender-based violence and women's and youth empowerment into national socio-economic development plans and budgets. Strengthening provincial capacity to plan, implement and monitor the implementation of the primary health care policy through integrated outreach service and supportive supervision will be critical part of the support. Particular attention will be given to strengthening partnerships with, and capacities of, regional, national and local feminist and women's rights-based organisations and of the health workforce for meeting sexual and reproductive health and rights and protection needs.

Food Security and Nutrition

In line with Vanuatu's environment outcome 1 on food and nutrition security, FAO will support the Government to strengthen capacities to undertake multi-sectoral, coordinated actions to reduce the triple burden of malnutrition, including in emergencies. WFP will work with a network the Government and partners to develop the evidence-base to contribute to informed national policies and guidelines on resilient food system pathways and the promotion of healthy diets and will enhance the enabling environment and coherence of food security interventions.

IAEA will support enhanced national capacity to utilise stable isotope and complementary techniques to improve human nutrition studies and services with an emphasis on childhood nutrition to strengthen national nutrition programmes.

UN Agencies will also support the Government to strengthen its national food system in line with the commitments made through the UN Food Systems Summit of 2021 and its follow-up initiatives.

Education and WASH

In line with Vanuatu's Sustainable Development Plan society outcome 2 on quality education, UNICEF will focus on improving capacity to deliver inclusive quality multi-sectoral early childhood education and learning to develop resilient and engaged young learners, including in humanitarian situations. UNESCO will support education data system strengthening and improved data utilization for policy, planning and financing decisions. UNESCO will also support increased national capacities to provide quality higher education and promote knowledge sharing, south-south collaboration, and professional development through regional networks including the Pacific Heads of Education Systems (PHES). UNFPA will support the alignment of family life education to the international technical guidance on sexuality education (ITGSE) and operationalise it in schools. UN Agencies will also support the government with follow-up actions on commitments made at the UN Transforming Education Summit of 2022.

UNICEF will work to enhance capacity among service providers to deliver safe, sustainable and climate-resilient WASH services in schools and healthcare facilities. This will be complemented by increased support to strengthen institutional capacities, mechanisms and policies to increase access to safe, affordable and equitable WASH services. WHO will focus on supporting WASH improvement in primary health care facilities.

Gender-Based Violence

The UN—UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA—will prioritise work to combat gender-based violence including advocacy with and capacity development of religious, cultural institutions and opinion leaders. The capacities of Vanuatu’s human rights mechanisms will be strengthened and efforts to further support the integration of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and gender-based violence prevention into empowerment programmes and initiatives will be promoted. Support will be provided for strengthening partnerships with, and capacities of, regional, national and local feminist and women’s rights-based organisations. Advocacy and support for implementation of human rights commitments related to International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) will continue alongside behavioural change communications and public and media campaigns targeting men and boys with messages on positive masculinities.



PILLAR 3: PROSPERITY

Outcome Statement: *by 2027, more people, especially those at risk of being left behind, contribute to and benefit from sustainable, resilient, diversified, inclusive, and human-centered socio-economic systems with decent work and equal livelihoods opportunities, reducing inequalities and ensuring shared prosperity*

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

- Strengthening digital infrastructure & connectivity
 - Promoting use of digital services
 - Building capacity in gender-responsive & child-sensitive budgeting
- Strengthening key strategies & legislation: debt management; VNSO Act; Price Control Act
 - Supporting national human resource & skills development
- Supporting the productive sector, commercial farming & food supply chain
 - Fostering blue, green & creative economy

The following areas were also identified during consultations and require further inter-agency discussions including with partners to identify potential interventions to address them: supporting financial literacy and entrepreneurship and promoting sustainable tourism.

Agencies	Partners	Indicative Resources 2023-2024 (USD)		
		Required	Available	To mobilise
ESCAP, FAO, IFAD, ILO, OHCHR, UNCDF, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, ITU and UN Women	Ministries of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries & Biosecurity; Finance & Economic Management; Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation & External Trade; Infrastructure & Public Utilities; Internal Affairs; Lands & Natural Resources; Tourism, Trade, Industry, Commerce, Ni-Vanuatu Business. Reserve Bank, SPC, PIFS, Oceania Customs Organisation, Vanuatu Police Force, OGCIO, TRBR, industry associations, insurance providers, IT companies, national youth councils, MSMEs, municipal councils, market administrators	\$7,252,610	\$4,133,125	\$3,119,485

UN interventions under the Prosperity Pillar focus on supporting sustainable economic development and prosperity, with a focus on equal opportunities and decent work for all, bridging the digital divide, digital transformation, expansion of the low carbon and blue economy, and transformation of agri-food systems. This includes six sub-outcomes and 54 outputs.

Moving to a Low-Carbon, Blue and Creative Economy

In support of Vanuatu's Sustainable Development Plan environment outcome 2 on blue-green economic growth, the ITU will continue to support the Ministry of Tourism, Trade, Commerce and Ni-Vanuatu Business to enhance capacity on ICT and climate change and E-waste management. UNIDO will continue to support the regional sustainable energy centre to provide quality services to Vanuatu and facilitate south-south and triangular cooperation with other SIDS regions. This includes the second operational phase of the Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) under the Global Network of Regional Sustainable

Energy Centres (GN-SEC). It also includes implementation of the Global Ocean Energy Alliance (GOEA) and STAR Initiative in the Pacific.

UNESCO will build a regional pool of experts for intangible cultural heritage (ICH) through tailored workshops and policy advice, to provide a better understanding of the 2005 Convention and the 1980 Recommendation concerning the Status of the Artist in terms of their benefits and implications for Vanuatu.

Vanuatu will benefit from a UN Joint Programme that aims to simultaneously advance the development of foundations for digital economy, support economic diversification and build greater community resilience across the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental, and economic). UNESCO's focus is on the support of the music industries and assessment of internet accessibility through the ROAM X Indicators. This programme will also include a focus on building policy frameworks and financing available to leverage the potential of the blue and green economy.

UNCTAD will build the evidence-based capacity of trade policymakers for sustainable development through international trade in the digital economy. Capacity-building activities will support the Regional Cooperation Mechanism on Low Carbon Transport.

Transformation of Agri-food Systems

In support of Vanuatu's Sustainable Development Plan economy outcome 3 on strengthening rural communities, FAO and IFAD will work to improve capacity of farmers' organisations and farmer-led enterprises to deliver economic services. This will include strengthening the enabling environment to enhance sustainable and gender-sensitive agri-food systems, including nutrition and organic food production systems and to developing value chains for the economic empowerment of rural communities. Individual producers will benefit from farmers' organisations and economic initiatives through value chain addition and the increase in the value of marketed products.

Decent Work

In support of Vanuatu's Sustainable Development Plan economy outcome 4 to create jobs and business opportunities, the "Decent Work" agenda under the leadership of ILO and supported by IOM, UNIDO, UN Women, UNFPA, ESCAP, UNCTAD and UNESCO has an extensive programme of action in Vanuatu. Programmes include working to increase rural women's income and access to secure and sustainable livelihoods in order to build resilience. Methodologies on valuation of ecosystem goods and services will be developed in partnership with the PIF Secretariat. IAEA will support the development of sustainable, high quality, and safe medical diagnostic imaging and radiotherapy services (SAPI). This will include supporting the national health care system's capacities and implementation modalities for planning and delivery of SAPI. UNIDO will support the improvement of the investment-related

business environment through quality systems and conformity assessment. Regional quality and regulatory infrastructure (Q&RI) governance will be enhanced, and the availability of value chain quality infrastructure services will be strengthened.

UN Women will support the improved socio-economic security of women, including those from identified LNOB groups. This will include socio-economic and leadership capacity building for women market vendors. Members of smallholder groups will be empowered to contribute to gender, social and economic advancement and small associations will be given capacity building support on good governance and accountability. Government including local government, and civil society and private sector organisations will have increased capacity to implement gender-responsive policies, strategies, and programmes to advance women's empowerment. Physical infrastructure will be improved to be more gender-responsive, safer, accessible and sustainable, and resilient to disaster risks and climate change. Mechanisms and capacities of actors, institutions, and communities to address discriminatory gender and social norms towards achieving sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, gender equality and bodily autonomy will be strengthened.

IOM will improve national and regional labour mobility coordination and governance and expand existing assistance to labour migrants including pre-departure, deployment and reintegration with a focus on supporting women migrants. IOM is working closely with the Vanuatu Department of Labour and other partners to ensure labour migrants and their families maximise the positive impacts of their participation in international labour mobility - maintaining good health, strong, violence-free relationships, and financial stability.

IOM is also improving national labour mobility coordination and governance through supporting the Vanuatu Employment Services Unit and Department of Labour to convene regular labour mobility working group meetings involving all stakeholders involved in labour mobility in Vanuatu. This work is complemented by regional efforts to support PIFS to establish a regional coordination mechanism and develop a regional labour mobility strategy for countries of origin to coordinate on common positions related to labour mobility and maximise the benefits of safe and fair migration as a sustainable development and climate resilience strategy in the Pacific.

UNFPA will strengthen partnerships with and capacities of regional, national and local feminist and other women's rights-based organisations. National data systems and use of evidence on population dynamics, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and gender-based violence for policies and programmes will be promoted. UNFOA will build strategic partnerships to improve understanding of the demographic transition and strengthen relevant policy, financing and planning processes to harness the demographic dividend.

ILO will support labour market enhancement through the design, adoption and implementation of a national employment policy in consultation with Government and stakeholders. The institutional capacities of employers' organisations will be

strengthened through the provision of support and capacity building to ensure decent work and equal livelihoods' opportunities, reducing inequalities and support shared prosperity.

Macroeconomic Stability, Fiscal Management and Trade Facilitation

In support of Vanuatu's Sustainable Development Plan economy outcome 1 to ensure stable and equitable growth, UNICEF will continue to advocate for the use of child-sensitive data, planning, budgeting and reporting and inclusive social policies and programmes that reduce multi-dimensional child poverty. ESCAP will support Vanuatu to strengthen integrated planning and financing systems and to promote policy coherence. This will include capacity building on strengthening public investment and planning and programming systems and building a more integrated approach to financing national development plans.

To improve trade facilitation and border/customs procedures, UNCTAD will support a multi-pronged strategy that will include a gap analysis on Customs-related WTO Trade Facilitation Agreements (TFA). Comprehensive legal revisions to ensure alignment with WTO Trade Facilitation Priority Measures will also be supported. In the area of compliance, the TFA Framework and the publication and availability of information through Trade Portals will be promoted.

ESCAP will support Vanuatu to strengthen regional cooperation by sharing knowledge, lessons learned and good practices to advance the 2030 Agenda and SAMOA Pathway. Support will also be provided to the Government to build a more integrated approach to financing national development plans and LDC graduation. This will include support for the finalisation of the National Planning and Reporting Framework and associated Standard Operating Procedures for whole of Government decision making. UNESCO will support the development of the Pacific Small Island States Indicator Landscape to improve national SDG monitoring and reporting. This will include developing regional guidelines and providing technical support to relevant government ministries.

Bridging the Digital Divide

In support of Vanuatu's Sustainable Development Plan economy outcome 2 to improve infrastructure, the UN, and in particular UNCDF, will work to bridge the "digital divide" through a multi-part intervention to enhance the policy environment for entrepreneurship and business development, including for youth and women. Focus will be given to strengthening institutional policies and capacities on digital infrastructure and connectivity, including ICT-related services and financial inclusion strategies in SMEs.

ITU will support the development of digital infrastructure and connectivity leveraging on whole-of-Government approach for health and educational services in remote

locations including policy support. The Smart Islands pilot will focus on digital transformation at the community level. WHO will support the Ministry of Health to develop a new digital health strategy and its implementation. FAO will help to ensure that an e-agriculture strategy is developed and implemented and gender and youth-sensitive digital products and services are available to support agri-food systems.

UNDP will continue to support the Ministry of Internal Affairs through enhancing the capacity of ICT and providing an updated Central Civil Register and Population Registry. This will include expanding e-services and e-government and equipping ICT staff with the required knowledge to maintain and expand this system. UNDO will continue to expand the digital infrastructure of the government of Vanuatu to broaden the coverage area of government services and expand the e-government service platforms.

OHCHR will provide technical support to Ministries on human rights informed economic transformation, access to information, digitalisation and digital services, with a particular focus on women, youth and persons with disabilities. This will be complemented by increased engagement with communities for improved rights-based access to information, digitalisation and digital services. OHCHR will also address challenges to access to information and freedom of expression through engagement with digitalisation.

UNCTAD will support efforts to define the requirements and guidelines for a National Single Window system for Vanuatu. This will include identification of counterpart Government agencies and the development of a national implementation plan.



PILLAR 4: PEACE

Outcome 4: By 2027, people enjoy and contribute to more accountable, inclusive, resilient and responsive governance systems that promote gender equality, climate security, justice, and peace, ensure participation, and protect their human rights

NATIONAL PRIORITIES

- Support Vanuatu judiciary
- Establishment and strengthening a national human rights institution
- Increase awareness of, and compliance with, national laws and international human rights standards
- Support CSOs, human rights defenders and women's rights organisations

The following areas were also identified during consultations and require further inter-agency discussions including with partners to identify potential interventions to address them: support reforms, policies and strategies: Political Party Integrity Bill; electoral reform; decentralisation policy.

Agencies	Partners	Indicative Resources 2023-2024 (USD)		
		Required	Available	To mobilise
IOM, OHCHR, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC UN Women, WHO	Ministries of Finance & Economic Management; Foreign Affairs; Justice & Community Services; Internal Affairs; Youth. Parliament, Pacific Council of Churches, PIANGO, PIFS, SPC, USP, electoral monitoring bodies	\$4,851,881	\$2,794,925	\$2,056,956

UN interventions under the Peace Pillar focus on strengthening multi-level governance and institutions; improving access to justice, rule of law and human rights; supporting inclusive political structures and processes for human security and social cohesion; and expanding women and youth's role in leadership and decision making. This includes five sub-outcomes and 26 outputs.

Access to Justice, Rule Of Law and Human Rights

In support of Vanuatu's Sustainable Development Plan society outcome 5 on security, peace and justice, UNICEF, WHO, OHCHR and UNHCR will work with Government and stakeholders on access to justice and human rights. The UN will help build the capacities of Vanuatu's human rights mechanisms and support duty bearers' increased commitment to human rights standards outlined in international human rights treaties and mechanisms. UN agencies will have a joint approach in providing capacity development and human rights training to government officials, parliamentarians, judiciary, lawyers, police force, and corrections officers on prevention of human rights violations and promoting international human rights standards.

Government and other service providers will be supported to deliver quality, inclusive and integrated child protection services. UNHCR will undertake capacity building activities with Government and relevant officials at various levels to increase access to territory in the region. Information sharing mechanisms for asylum seekers and

refugees will be enhanced. UNHCR will work to ensure national systems that impact refugees and asylum seekers are more aligned with international law and standards.

UN Women will continue to support gender equality advocates to actively participate in global and regional intergovernmental fora on gender equality and women's empowerment, including CSW67/68, the Pacific Women Leaders' Summit, the Triennial Conference for Pacific Women, the Beijing Platform for Action +30 review, and the Pacific Feminist Forum. Governments and stakeholders will be supported on the implementation, monitoring and reporting of Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW). Technical support will be provided to Government ministries on engagement with international human rights mechanisms, including Special Procedures, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and Treaty Bodies by providing capacity building support for ratification, implementation and reporting.

WHO will assist the Ministry of Health to amend outdated health-related bills to Parliament and aspects to improve social determinants of health, particularly, gender, human right and equity will be integrated.

Inclusive Political Structures and Processes

In support of Vanuatu's Sustainable Development Plan society outcome 4 on social inclusion and outcome 6 on strong and effective institutions, UNDP will continue to strengthen institutional capacities of the electoral authorities and Parliament of Vanuatu. This will include enhancing the integrity and accuracy of the Voter Register working with the Electoral Commission, Vanuatu Electoral Office and the Civil Registration and Identity Management Department. It will also include supporting the Parliament of Vanuatu in its efforts to become more effective, efficient, inclusive, and transparent. UNDP will also work with the education system to provide civic education materials for secondary schools, while also raising public awareness on democratic and human rights, equal universal franchise through the ballot, and participation in political processes.

OHCHR and regional partners will collaborate around the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR), to raise awareness about universality and indivisibility and its complementarity with national and regional values; and bring together civil society, development partners and governments to commit to pledges for human rights and identify future human rights challenges and opportunities. OHCHR will also continue to partner with and support the Pacific Human Rights Defenders Network and Human Rights Defenders (HRD) through workshops and capacity building for CSOs/ HRDs and the media on human rights and strengthening networks, advocacy and exchange of best practices. The UN Free and Equal campaign, and support to Indigenous Peoples and Persons of African Descent (PAD) will increase awareness of and support for equal rights and fair treatment including of LGBTIQ+ people. Civil society organisations will be strengthened to participate in democratic processes.

Equal campaign, and support to Indigenous Peoples will increase awareness of and support for equal rights and fair treatment, including of LGBTIQ+ people. Civil society organisations will be strengthened to participate in democratic processes.

UNODC will support the Government to monitor threats from transnational organised crime and build capacity of law enforcement and border agencies to detect, investigate and prosecute crimes including human trafficking, environment crime, maritime crime, money laundering and drug trafficking.

Strengthened Multi-Level Governance, Institutions and Processes

The UN system will coherently and systematically contribute to progress on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Women and girls, including those from identified Leave No One Behind groups, will have the ability to express their voice, agency, and priorities in public life, and will be empowered to access gender-responsive public goods and services. UNICEF will continue to work with child protection service providers and stakeholders to ensure effective birth registration systems are in place.

UNDP will work to ensure state-society relationships are more resilient to stressors and are inclusive of women, youth, and people with disabilities as part of its support for strengthened legislative policies of parliament, electoral systems, and constitutional bodies. UNDP will work with the Ministry of Internal Affairs through the Electoral Commission, Vanuatu Electoral Office and Department of Civil Registration and Identity Management to strengthen institutional capacities of the electoral authorities; digital transformation through increased use of the National ID Card for voter registration and identification; electronic cash transfers and other public services such as health and education; and voter education and public awareness.

IOM will provide in-country technical assistance to Government ministries at the national and sub-national level on managing and monitoring displacement, migration and planned relocation from a rights-based perspective. This will include strengthening migration governance through enhanced border security and travel facilitation; establishing and promoting border management and strengthened data collection and sharing systems. Support will be provided to increase capacities to protect migrants and prevent human trafficking and smuggling.

UNFPA will continue to support evidence generation, analysis and measurement of social and gender norms changes. This will include increased availability and analysis of high quality and disaggregated, qualitative and quantitative data on population dynamics, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights and gender-based violence through strengthening traditional data sources such as population housing census, supporting data governance and coordination, and increasing the availability of digital products.

Public Resources Management

UNODC will work to ensure relevant institutions have the adequate power, mandate and capacity, and are sharing the responsibility to prevent, raise awareness of, detect, investigate and prosecute corruption.

UNDP will continue to strengthen the legal identity registration process which in turn will provide accurate data allowing for more data drive policy-making for the government.

Women and Youth Empowerment and Leadership

UNDP and IFAD will work to ensure gender-sensitive mechanisms in place to accelerate achievement of the SDGs and monitor progress and to increase rural women's voices and agency for full and equal participation and leadership in their households, communities, organisations and governance systems. This will include strengthened organisational capacities and social capital to form, participate in and sustain producer organisations, cooperatives and unions, savings groups and self-help groups.



Implementation

UN Collaboration

Vanuatu is served by the UN Multi-Country Office (MCO) for Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu which is based in Suva and led by the UN Resident Coordinator. Together with the UN MCO, the UN Country Team (UNCT) Fiji provides leadership in meeting national development priorities and achieving the SDGs for the five target countries including Vanuatu.

There are currently seven resident UN agencies and 96 UN staff based in Vanuatu to support the UN's work. This includes: FAO, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNWomen and WHO. In total, there are 20 UN agencies working in Vanuatu; this number includes non-resident agencies. The UNRCO's Country Coordination Officer provides in-country coordination for the delivery on the UNSDCF and the CIP.

Vanuatu remains a partner country under seven UN joint programmes/initiatives. Joint initiatives of the UN system bring together two or more UN agencies, under a single programmatic framework, with a shared results framework and mutual responsibility for the achievement of planned results. This approach enhances national access to the multidimensional expertise of the UN system to tackle complex development challenges and allows more coherent policy advice and support tailored to the national context. It is anticipated that in the long term, this approach enhances value for money, reduces transaction costs (efficiency) and improves development effectiveness at the country level.

UN PROGRAMMING IN VANUATU																											
	FAO	IAEA	IFAD	ILO	IOM	ITU	OHCHR	UNAIDS	UNCDF	UNCTAD	UNDP	UNDRR	UNEP	UNESCAP	UNESCO	UNFPA	UNHABITAT	UNHCR	UNICEF	UNIDO	UNODC	UNOPS	UNV	UNWOMEN	WFP	WHO	WMO
Resident Agencies											X					X			X			X		X		X	
Interventions per outcome																											
Planet	X	X	X			X			X		X		X	X	X	X			X					X	X	X	X
People	X	X	X					X			X			X	X	X			X					X	X	X	
Prosperity	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X			X	X	X			X	X				X		X	
Peace			X		X						X			X		X		X	X		X			X		X	
*UN MCO Fiji is supported by the Resident Coordinator Office in enabling UN coordination and has physical presence in Vanuatu																											

Governance

The Vanuatu CIP will be governed and implemented under the principle of national ownership through the Joint Steering Committee (JSC). The JSC is co-chaired by the Director General, Ministry of the Prime Minister's Office and the UN Resident Coordinator. In addition to the co-chairs, the membership of the JSC will include representatives of the key Government ministries; UN heads of agencies; and, representatives of other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector to ensure multi-stakeholder coordination on implementation.

The UN agencies implementing in Vanuatu will be supported by the UN Country Team (UNCT), with technical and operational guidance from the Regional Programme Management Team (PMT), under which four Results Groups (one per pillar) have been established. The PMT (through its Results Groups) is responsible for the overall coordinated delivery of UN contributions under each pillar and for guaranteeing the application of key programmatic principles in their respective domains. In addition, thematic groups on Gender Equality Women's Empowerment and Human Rights will provide advice and support regarding normative standards and frameworks. The UN Communication Group (UNCG) will support communications and the Data, Monitoring and Evaluation Group (DMEG) will monitor progress towards CIP outputs and the UNSDCF outcomes.

The Vanuatu CIP programme management cycle underpins critical processes that both the UN and the Government of Vanuatu will jointly undertake to effectively deliver on country-level results and comprises the following phases 1) planning, 2) implementation and 3) results reporting. Each phase of the cycle is guided by its own set of tasks and relevant roles and responsibilities for the UN agencies and in-country stakeholders.

Monitoring of the CIP will involve an ongoing action-learning cycle that takes place throughout the implementation. Since the CIP operationalises the Pacific's UNSDCF, it is fully aligned in terms of outcomes, indicators, baselines, and targets, at the country level. The JSC will be responsible for monitoring the interventions and their contribution to the CIP, supported by the DMEG. UNINFO - the UNDS planning, monitoring, and reporting system will be fully operational to support joint monitoring of the Vanuatu CIP. It will be utilised by UN agencies, the Government, and other local stakeholders.

An annual performance review will take place during the implementation of the CIP to take stock of achievements and challenges with the participation of Government stakeholders, UN agencies and partners. This will enable partners to make necessary adjustments in UN programming to ensure continued relevance in line with the expectations of the UN reform. Once the full cycle is completed, key lessons learnt, and other evaluative findings will inform the transition and changes to the subsequent cycle.

Partnerships

Partnership is a foundational pillar of the UNSDCF, underpinning the four pillars of People, Planet, Peace, and Prosperity, and will be crucial to the success of the Vanuatu CIP. With the introduction of the CIP, and the rollout of UNINFO, the UN's development assistance activities are more accessible and transparent to the Government of Vanuatu and partners. This is demonstration of the UN's commitment to working meaningfully with implementing and funding partners to ensure assistance to Vanuatu is sustainable, efficient, and minimises the administrative burden for Government.

Working in partnership with implementing partners such as Government ministries, CROP agencies (including FFA, PIFS, and SPC), IMO, Pacific Islands Farmers Organisation Network (PIFON), Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO), World Vision, insurance companies, and academic institutions, the UN will address Vanuatu's national priorities and support its progress against regional commitments.

A wide range of state actors and their development agencies, including Australia, Austria, Canada, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, and the United States, support Vanuatu's development by financing the UN's projects and programmes. Contributing partners include funds such as the Global Partnership for Education, the Global Environment Fund, the International Fund for Agriculture Development, and the UN's Joint SDG Fund. The UN will be actively looking to bring in additional partners to support Vanuatu during the CIP's implementation period.

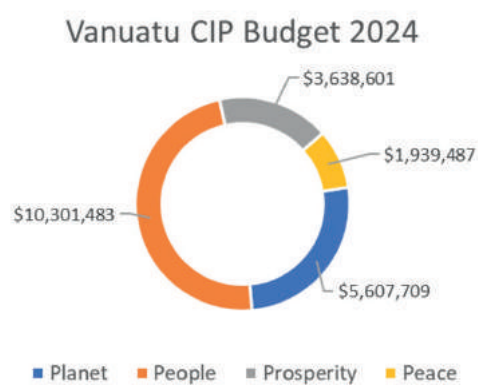
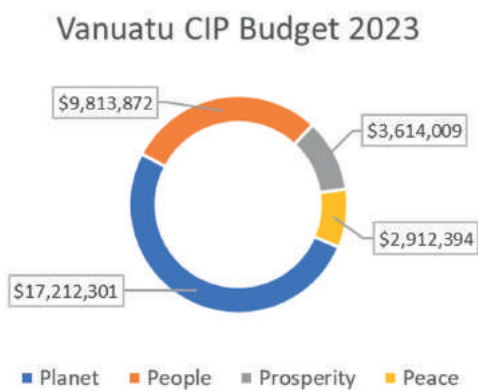
The UN encourages multilateralism as the best strategy to support sustainable long-term solutions to many of Vanuatu's national and regional priorities, and, as the CIP sets out what the UN will do in Vanuatu over the next two years, it provides prospective partners with information on potential areas for collaboration.



Financing

The tentative Vanuatu CIP budget against the four Pillars and against sub-outcomes in set out in Annex 1 and 2 respectively and summarised in the graphs below for the year 2023 and project budget for the year 2024. This includes UN interventions already underway in Vanuatu that continue into the 2023 – 2024 cycle as well as new interventions commencing in 2023 or planned for 2024. It should be noted that the CIP budget is more accurate for 2023 than 2024, due to annual budget cycles of some UN agencies. In addition, Vanuatu will benefit from UN regional programming from agencies including FAO, ESCAP, UNFPA, UNEP and WMO for which budget figures are not included in the CIP.

Vanuatu Financing 2023-2024



Annexes

Vanuatu CIP Budget by Pillar

Pillar	2023				2024			
	Required	Available	TBM	% Funded	Required	Available	TBM	% Funded
Planet	\$17,212,301	\$8,688,701	\$8,523,600	50%	\$5,607,709	\$1,750,170	\$3,857,539	31%
People	\$9,813,872	\$6,273,213	\$3,540,659	64%	\$10,301,483	\$3,572,094	\$6,729,389	35%
Prosperity	\$3,614,009	\$3,027,772	\$586,237	84%	\$3,638,601	\$1,105,353	\$2,533,248	30%
Peace	\$2,912,394	\$1,961,158	\$951,237	67%	\$1,939,487	\$833,767	\$1,105,720	43%
Total	\$33,552,576	\$19,950,843	\$13,601,733	59%	\$21,487,279	\$7,261,384	\$14,225,896	34%

Vanuatu CIP Budget by Sub-Outcome

		2023			2024		
		Required	Available	TBM	Required	Available	TBM
Planet	1.1	\$10,348,950	\$2,770,500	\$7,578,450	\$743,670	\$543,670	\$200,000
	1.2	\$4,421,995	\$4,228,585	\$193,410	\$3,284,948	\$633,000	\$2,651,948
	1.3	\$1,284,141	\$532,401	\$751,740	\$1,559,091	\$553,500	\$1,005,591
	1.4	\$1,157,215	\$1,157,215	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0
	Sub-Total	\$17,212,301	\$8,688,701	\$8,523,600	\$5,607,709	\$1,750,170	\$3,857,539
People	2.1	\$3,649,054	\$3,057,304	\$591,750	\$3,841,554	\$1,655,304	\$2,186,250
	2.2	\$2,002,937	\$543,773	\$1,459,164	\$1,989,445	\$375,000	\$1,614,445
	2.3	\$1,460,700	\$1,036,910	\$423,790	\$924,300	\$821,790	\$102,510
	2.4	\$548,699	\$245,000	\$303,699	\$1,300,000	\$500,000	\$800,000
	2.5	\$773,203	\$300,768	\$472,436	\$1,290,255	\$220,000	\$1,070,255
	2.7	\$1,379,279	\$1,089,458	\$289,821	\$955,929	\$0	\$955,929
	Sub-Total	\$9,813,872	\$6,273,213	\$3,540,659	\$10,301,483	\$3,572,094	\$6,729,389
Prosperity	3.1	\$115,000	\$45,000	\$70,000	\$215,000	\$45,000	\$170,000
	3.2	\$149,117	\$149,117	\$0	\$149,117	\$149,117	\$0
	3.3	\$456,000	\$456,000	\$0	\$336,000	\$336,000	\$0
	3.4	\$748,844	\$553,545	\$195,299	\$728,484	\$347,236	\$381,248
	3.5	\$450,000	\$129,062	\$320,938	\$100,000	\$108,000	+\$8,000
	3.6	\$1,695,048	\$1,695,048	\$0	\$2,110,000	\$120,000	\$1,990,000
Sub-Total	\$3,614,009	\$3,027,772	\$586,237	\$3,638,601	\$1,105,353	\$2,533,248	
Peace	4.1	\$176,360	\$98,482	\$77,878	\$338,720	\$43,250	\$295,470
	4.2	\$1,590,000	\$1,222,857	\$367,143	\$550,000	\$177,857	\$372,143
	4.3	\$1,146,034	\$639,818	\$506,216	\$1,050,767	\$612,660	\$438,107
	4.4	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	4.6	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Sub-Total	\$2,912,394	\$1,961,158	\$951,237	\$1,939,487	\$833,767	\$1,105,720	

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TONGA, TUVALU AND
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