

Vanuatu National Strategy for the Development of Statistics

Final Draft Strategy for the Agenda for Building Capacity in Statistics 2014–2020

This strategy has been prepared by the Vanuatu NSDS Consultant with funding provided by Paris21 under the management of the VNSO VNSDS Manager and Government Statistician. Technical support was provided by Paris21 and SPC.

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Foreword

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

This document, the Vanuatu National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, has been developed by the stakeholders in the Vanuatu National Statistical System. It is based on a shared understanding of the key policy issue imperatives and agreement on the areas of priority for statistical data development. It outlines data development actions aimed at improving the statistical information base relevant to these priority areas.

This project has been guided by the Paris21 funded technical assistance team working with sectoral task forces for economic, social and demographic and primary sector, environment and climate change statistics. These groups have been instrumental in setting the direction of the strategy, as well as in the identification and articulation of the key policy and research issues, data development needs and related actions.

Development of the national strategy for statistics has involved extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including government agencies; provincial governments, research organisations; and non-government organisations. Staff in these organisations have given generously of their time and their contribution to this work is gratefully acknowledged.

Hon. Maki Simelum
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Stakeholders have been very responsive in providing information and input for this strategy, and without their generous support accurate information would be lacking. We have been privileged to have this strong support and will continue to rely on these experts as we move forward into the implementation phase.

In addition, the VNSO would like to thank the important contribution made by the Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination in the role as co-chair of the steering committee as well as for their expert contributions to this strategy. The steering committee tasked with finalising this strategy provided excellent oversight and direction, with this strategy all the richer for the contributions made. The VNSO gratefully acknowledges the important contributions and guidance for the Vanuatu Strategy for the Development of Statistics provided by the following members of the steering committee:

- **Name**, Ministry of Health
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Executive Summary

i. The Vanuatu National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (VNSDS) was developed with funding and technical assistance from Paris21 and the SPC. It is based on the outcomes of a strategic planning workshop with stakeholders in the VSS and the results of sector reviews for economic, social, environment and agriculture statistics. In each area there has been a thorough assessment of the statistical collections, human resources, data processing, analysis and output systems against international standards, resulting in numerous recommendations for improvements. These form the founding principles of the VNSDS.

ii. The Government of Vanuatu is committed improving official statistics for policy, planning and decision making as the foundation for social and economic development of the nation. The Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO), along with the broader Vanuatu Statistical System (VSS), is facing unprecedented and ever increasing demand for a wider range of social, economic, demographic and environmental statistics to monitor progress towards achieving national and international aspirations. The VNSO and VSS are struggling to meet this demand. In many areas of official statistics Vanuatu exceeds regional and international standards while in others there are major deficiencies. The challenge is to coordinate the VSS efficiently and effectively to maintain this excellence while working to address the gaps.

iii. The VNSDS is grounded in the strategic objectives to improve human resources for statistics; the design and implementation of a continuous programme of capacity building in the VSS; an adequate budget; a sound policy and legislative framework; effective and inclusive consultation, coordination and coordination; improving access to statistical information; and improving statistical literacy and advocacy. This enabling environment will result in a core national dataset of the highest quality; available in a timely manner and easily accessible to users.

iv. The vision the VSS aspires to achieve in the implementation of the VNSDS is:

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

v. The mission is the core business of the VSS. The data must be of high quality, reliable and timely to assist the government and the community to make better informed decisions. Statistical systems must be strengthened and developed to meet emerging needs in the social and environment area. This will rely on building and maintaining relationships with key providers and users of statistics. To continually improve the VSS must monitor past and current performance to plan well and build a stronger future. The mission of the VSS is:

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

vi. The VNSDS values reflect the guiding principles and behaviours the VSS believe in as a national statistical service:

- a. Professionalism – Upholding the highest standard of professional ethics in coordinate, produce and disseminate quality statistical data. Adhering to principles of justice and fairness. Maintaining national data and knowledge management systems at the highest standard.
- b. Social and cultural values – Cherishing and upholding cultural diversity and values in all our activities.

- c. Partnerships – Maintaining effective working relationships with all stakeholders. Advocating and educating about the use of statistical information for sound decision making. Effective use of the media to build statistical literacy.
 - d. Integrity – Committed to maintaining confidentiality with data collection and statistical information. Taking all efforts to make sure respondent burden reasonable.
 - e. Reliability, accuracy and consistency – Ensuring consistent, reliable and accurate statistics for all. Collect, process and disseminate data and information in a timely manner.
 - f. Sound management – Providing effective, timely, accurate and user friendly knowledge management systems for users.
 - g. Sustainability – Developing a sustainable national statistical system meeting the needs of all stakeholders.
 - h. Client focused – Maintain responsive and open communication to partners and stakeholders. Ensure that clients are satisfied with statistical outputs through regular consultation and review.
- vii. Institutional arrangements for coordination in the VSS have improved in recent years, but still fall short of ensuring overall level required for the production of official statistics. While the Government Statistician has the mandate for the coordination required to achieve the VNSDS production strategies, as per the Statistics Amendment Act of 2013; the VNSO does not have the resources to achieve the level of coordination required. There is an urgent need for the Vanuatu Law Commission to review the legislation mandating the collection, compilation and dissemination of statistical information of all agencies in the Vanuatu Statistical System. The 2013 revision to the Act created the Statistics Advisory Council (SAC), the ultimate body with oversight for the VSS. It will be the mechanism to improve coordination in the VSS by bringing users and producers of statistics together to discuss supply and demand issues. One of the key functions of the SAC will be to finalise the prioritisation of activities and monitor the implementation of the VNSDS across all sectors. The SAC will meet twice a year to discuss the ongoing work program of VSS agencies based on the VNSDS, emerging issues and statistical releases. The Implementation Plan (**Annex 3**) will guide SAC governance activities.
- viii. It is estimated that the implementation of the VNSDS in this first three year period will require Vt 302 million, most of this in the thematic subject matter areas to develop the core national dataset of statistical information through data collections to address data gaps (Section 5 and **Annex 2**). New initiatives represent about 90% of the VNSDS budget, however once detailed costing breakdowns are done with the annual work plans a proportion of this will be available through the recurrent budget as funds are reprogramed into priority areas. The significant budget items are for a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 2015, a disability survey in 2015; a Household Labour Force Survey in 2016; the creation of a business register and quarterly business enterprise surveys from with development work beginning in 2014; and a rural smallholder agriculture survey in 2016.
- ix. The VNSDS contains two thematic areas to achieve the strategic objectives: strategic factors and interventions required across the national statistical system; and production strategies for specific subject matter areas in statistics (details in Section 4). These areas will need to be reviewed every three years to ensure that they continue to be relevant and align with the statistical information needs of government and users and to maximise the benefits available from new methods, technologies and developments in statistical standards. The statistical production strategies, the lead agency responsible and indicative timing are summarised in the following table (based on the Implementation Plan in **Annex 3**).

Table 1: Overview of VNSDS statistical production strategies, lead agencies and timing

Section ref & Outputs		Timing	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
4.2 Economic statistics									
4.2.1 National accounts & GDP									
Ongoing program to improve National Accounts	VNSO	2014 →	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Informal sector survey conducted every two years	VNSO	2015 →		•		•		•	
NPISH survey conducted every two years	VNSO	2015 →		•		•		•	
Street vendors survey conducted every two years	VNSO	2016 →	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Province level GDP estimates system developed	VNSO	2015-18		•	•	•	•		
Province level GDP estimates released every two years	VNSO	2018					•		•
Meta data and quality assessment available for National Accounts	VNSO	2015		•					
Business register developed for integrated business survey framework	VNSO	2015-16		•	•				
Quarterly RBV/VNSO business/enterprise survey framework implemented	VNSO	2016 →			•	•	•	•	•
New position for national accounts statistician created and filled	VNSO	2015		•					
Satellite accounts for tourism and environment sector development work	VNSO	2017 →				•	•	•	•
4.2.2 Prices									
CPI processing system redeveloped	VNSO	2015		•					
Expand coverage to all provinces	VNSO	2015 →		•	•	•	•	•	•
Meta data and quality assessment available for CPI	VNSO	2016			•				
CPI updated every 5 years from HIES	VNSO	2016, 2021			•	•			
Increase range of CPI as outputs requested by users	VNSO	2015 →		•	•	•	•	•	•
4.2.3 GFS									
Continue with program for GFS o1 compliance	DoFT	2014 →	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Meta data and quality assessment available for GFS	DoFT	2016			•				
Ongoing training and capacity building for GFS o1, including province staff	DoFT	2015 →		•	•	•	•	•	•
4.2.4 BoP									
Quarterly BoP in separate release , available in Excel format	RBV	2014 →	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
BoP release schedule included on www.rbv.gov.vu	RBV	2014 →	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Meta data and technical documentation available for BoP	RBV	2015		•					
Continue with program for BMP6 compliance and increased geographic coverage	RBV	2014 →	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Continue to improve BoP coverage at the province level	RBV	2014 →	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Consult with users about BoP data and analysis requirements	RBV	2015		•					
Training for users in BoP and GDP	RBV	2014	•						
RBV and VNSO integrate BoP survey data and frame into business register	VNSO	2015		•					
RBV and VNSO integrated and coordinated quarterly business enterprise surveys	VNSO	2016 →			•	•	•	•	•
4.2.5 Monetary & banking									
Continue with program for MFSM5 compliance	RBV	2014 →	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Improve range of statistical outputs , time series as per users requests	RBV	2015 →		•	•	•	•	•	•
Expand coverage to include other financial corporations	RBV	2015 →		•	•	•	•	•	•
Meta data and quality assessment available for monetary and banking statistics	RBV	2015		•					
4.2.6 Industry & manufacturing									
Statistics working group established of all stakeholders	Industry	2014	•						
Survey framework developed & integrated into the business register	VNSO	2016			•				
Mobilise resources for quarterly survey in all provinces	VNSO	2016 →			•	•	•	•	•
Industry and manufacturing statistics available at province level annually	VNSO	2017 →				•	•	•	•
4.2.7 Investment & construction									
Statistics working group established	RBV	2014	•						
Quarterly business survey to include investment statistics	RBV	2015 →		•	•	•	•	•	•
Investment statistics integrated into business enterprise survey & business register	VNSO	2016 →			•	•	•	•	•
Construction permits database in all provinces	VNSO	2015 →		•	•	•	•	•	•
Data collection framework for donor funded construction and investment	VNSO	2016 →			•	•	•	•	•
4.2.8 Utilities & infrastructure									
Statistics working group established	MIPU	2015		•					
Statistical data framework developed for all provinces	MIPU	2016			•				
Statistical data collection system developed and updated annually	VNSO	2017 →				•	•	•	•

continued over

Strategies for the Vanuatu Statistical System

Section ref & Outputs		Timing	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
4.2.9 Domestic trade									●
Statistics working group established	Trade	2015	●	●					
Statistical data framework developed for all provinces	Trade	2016			●				
Statistical data collection system developed and updated quarterly	VNSO	2016 →			●	●	●	●	●
4.2.10 External trade									●
External Trade statistics working group established	VNSO	2014	●						
Ongoing program to improve external trade statistics and products	VNSO	2014 →	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
International trade in services statistics technical working group established	VNSO	2015		●					
Annual release of trade in services statistics	VNSO	2018 →					●	●	●
4.2.11 Labour force & employment									●
Statistics working group established	Labour	2015		●					
Compile and release existing data from VNPF, DoL, business surveys	VNSO	2016 →		●	●	●	●	●	●
Survey module developed for labour market indicators	VNSO	2015		●					
VNSO conduct regular household labour force survey	VNSO	2016			●				
4.2.12 Tourism									●
VNSO & Immigration develop shared database for arrival and departure statistics	VNSO	2014	●						
Digital scanning of immigration forms including domestic tourism statistics	Immigration	2014	●						
Tourism exit/expenditure survey programme developed	VNSO	2015		●					
Tourism exit/expenditure survey conducted and released annually	VNSO	2015 →		●	●	●	●	●	●
Review and assessment of needs to produce tourism satellite accounts for GDP	VNSO	2017-20				●	●	●	●
Occupancy rate survey developed with accommodation providers	Tourism	2014	●						
Tourist accommodation occupancy rate survey and results	Tourism	2015 →		●	●	●	●	●	●
4.2.13 Poverty & living conditions									●
Statistical sources and indicators developed	DSPPAC	2014	●						
Secure funding for HIES every five years	VNSO	2014	●						
HIES survey conducted and poverty analysis disseminated	VNSO	2015 →		●	●	●	●	●	●
Training in use of HIES data for wellbeing, poverty and living conditions analysis	VNSO	2015		●					
Dissemination and communication strategy for poverty and living conditions statistics	VNSO	2016			●				
4.2.14 ODA									●
Develop statistical sources, compilation and analysis system	VNSO	2015 →		●	●	●	●	●	●
4.2 Primary sector statistics									●
4.2.1 Environment									●
Statistics working group established	DoEPaC	2014	●						
Statistical indicators and costs developed for National Environment Strategy	VNSO	2015-16		●	●				
4.2.2 Climate & disaster risk reduction									●
Statistics working group established	NDMO	2014	●						
Statistical indicators and costs developed for National Climate Change & DRR Policy	VNSO	2014	●						
Centralised data system for disaster preparedness, response & recovery	VNSO	2015 →		●	●	●	●	●	●
4.2.3 Energy									●
Statistics working group established	DoE	2014	●						
Statistical indicators and costs developed for National Energy Road Map	VNSO	2015-17		●	●	●			
Energy statistics updated annually	VNSO	2018 →					●	●	●
4.2.4 Agriculture, forestry & fisheries									●
Review and disseminate statistics currently available	MALFFB	2014	●						
Statistical indicators and costs developed for productive sector strategy	VNSO	2015		●					
Mobilise resources for Agriculture Census and more frequent smallholder surveys	VNSO	2016			●				
Rural smallholder survey completed on a rolling basis and results disseminated	VNSO	2016-20			●	●	●	●	●
Census of Agriculture conducted	VNSO	2020							●
Agriculture Statistics Unit established and disseminating statistics from Luganville	VNSO	2017 →				●	●	●	●
VNSO assists stakeholders with collection and compilation of primary sector statistics	VNSO	2017 →				●	●	●	●
Statistics on agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries and biosecurity disseminated	VNSO	2020 →							●

continued over

Strategies for the Vanuatu Statistical System

Section ref & Outputs		Timing	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
4.3 Social sector statistics									
4.3.1 Population and demographic									
Ongoing program to improve vital statistics	VNSO	2014 →	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Stakeholder consultations about data needs for population estimates	VNSO	2014	•						
Conduct Census of Population and Housing on 10 yearly basis	VNSO	2015-20		•	•	•	•	•	•
Review needs with stakeholders for demographic indicators and survey program	VNSO	2015-16		•	•				
Improve access to health facility data and use for demographic indicators	MoH	2014-15	•	•					
Vital statistics disseminated quarterly	MoH	2016 →			•	•	•	•	•
4.3.2 Education, numeracy & literacy									
Annual education statistics survey conducted and results disseminated	MoE	2014 →	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Education and training survey module developed and used in household surveys	VNSO	2015 →		•	•	•	•	•	•
4.3.3 Health									
Implement program to improve health facility statistics	MoH	2014-15	•	•					
Review and centralised internal database systems	MoH	2016-16		•	•				
Health statistics disseminated annually	MoH	2015		•	•				
4.3.4 Gender									
Statistical indicators and costs developed for national gender policy	VNSO	2014	•						
Statistics framework developed for CEDAW reporting	DoWA	2015-16		•	•				
4.3.5 Children & youth									
Statistical indicators and costs developed for national youth policy	MJCS	2014	•						
Statistical indicators and costs developed for national child policy	VNSO	2015		•					
Statistics framework developed for CRC reporting	VNSO	2015		•					
4.3.6 Disability									
Vanuatu Disability Survey forms reviewed against WHO standard and funds mobilised	MJCS	2014	•						
Disability survey conducted and results disseminated	VNSO	2015-16		•	•				
Statistical indicators and costs developed for national disability policy	VNSO	2015-16		•	•				
Statistics framework developed for CRPD reporting	VNSO	2015-16		•	•				
4.3.7 Crime & justice									
Implement program to improve law and justice sector statistics	MJCS	2014	•						
Users have access to centralised system for crime and justice statistics	MJCS	2015		•					
Crime and justice statistical analysis disseminated annually	VNSO	2016 →		•	•	•	•	•	•

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

1. The preparation of the VNSDS has followed the internationally recommended Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (Paris21) strategic management approach adapted to the Vanuatu context. The VNSDS process began in 2011 when stakeholders unanimously endorsed the need for a national strategy after a workshop discussed the major challenges facing the VSS in the context of monitoring and evaluating the development outcomes contained in the national medium-term development strategy, the Priorities and Action Agenda (PAA), and policies for specific sectors.

2. In 2013 Paris21 and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) finalised the Roadmap for the VNSDS and implementation began with the assessment of the current status of the VSS. A team of national consultants, was then assembled by the Vanuatu National Statistics Office (VNSO), and inclusive and interactive assessments of various aspects of the VSS were drafted according to guidelines provided by Paris21 and the local regional partner, SPC. Three thematic governance structures were used for the assessments, called sectoral task forces (STAFs):

- a. STAF-1: Sustainable Economic Development
- b. STAF-2: Sustainable Human and Social Development
- c. STAF-3: Sustainable Natural Resources & Environmental Management and Development¹

3. The assessments were then compiled into the national assessment report and all documents were used by stakeholders during a workshop in early 2014 to develop the underlying principles for the VNSDS. The implementation framework and statistical production strategies were developed by the four sectoral task forces working with the VNSDS Manager and National Consultant.

4. All stakeholders and leaders consulted during these processes recognise that a unified strategy with continuous assessment tools to meet user's needs for statistical information, effective dissemination and constructive coordination of the VSS was overdue. This elaboration and execution of a national strategy to focus on the development of the national statistical system is therefore vital. The VNSDS provides the strategic planning framework to guide evidence-based policy making help improve people's lives.

5. Strategic planning in statistics is a relatively new area in Vanuatu, with the VNSO producing its corporate plan for statistics for 2008-2013; covering all main activities of the VNSO². A milestone for the VNSO was the passing of revised statistical legislation in 2013, strengthening the coordination role of the VNSO through the establishment of the Statistics Advisory Council and ability to compile and collate statistical information from the private and public sector.

“All countries need good statistics, to manage the business of government as well as providing society generally with information about what is happening. Official statistics, that is information in numerical form produced and disseminated by government agencies are important to support policy making, to allocate scarce resources, to monitor national progress and to make governments more transparent and accountable.”

Paris21 Secretariat, 2004

¹ Annex 1 contains VNSDS contributors.

² Vanuatu National Statistics Office Strategic Plan: Vision, Mission, Strategic Directions and Forward Work Program 2008 to 2013.

6. The VNSDS will guide the VSS from 2015 – 2020, with action plans for implementing the strategies to achieve the goals with implementation monitored and evaluated by the Statistics Advisory Council. It is based on the needs of the sectors for policy based statistical information as well as the national development strategy, the Priorities and Action Agenda 2006 – 2015 (PAA); which is being updated in 2014 as the Vanuatu National Sustainable Development Priorities 2015 – 2025. The national development plan contains strategies to promote private sector development and employment creation; macroeconomic stability and growth; good governance and public sector reform; primary sector development; provision of better basic services, especially in the rural areas; sustainable natural resource management and communities resilient to climate change and disasters; education and human resource development; and economic infrastructure and support services.

7. Key stakeholders requested that the VNSDS be anchored to the national development strategy framework and be responsive to the needs of data for monitoring and evaluating national policies and programs. This 10-year VNSDS strategy, based on the national goals for development, maximises benefits from the established cycle of major statistical collections, such as the decennial programme of Population and Housing as well as Agricultural censuses, and the regular (5-7 year interval) program of key household surveys, such as HIES and DHS-MICS, with all these statistical sources providing a rich and robust statistical basis for making informed decisions and monitoring national development policy performance and progress.

1.2 Background

8. Vanuatu consists of more than 80 islands stretching for over 800 kilometres in the Melanesian sub-region of the Pacific. Vanuatu was admitted to the group of Least Developed Countries (LDC) in 1985. Today it is still part of this group because of its high exposure to environmental risks and natural disasters although its per-capita GDP exceeds the LDC threshold. Vanuatu is the world's most vulnerable country to natural disasters in the form of seismic and volcanic activity, cyclones, drought, flooding and other extreme weather events.

9. Vanuatu became independent in 1980. The 1980 Constitution, amended in 1988, provides the basis for legislation in Vanuatu and for the protection of people's fundamental rights. The Republic of Vanuatu is a parliamentary democracy with executive power vested in the Prime Minister and a Council of Ministers (COM), with a maximum of thirteen Ministers. Government Act No. 5 of 1998 specifies the functions of the Executive and the employment, function and responsibilities of political advisers. It also established a technical committee, the Development Committee of Officials (DCO), comprising all Directors General (DGs), to review submissions.

10. Since 1994, the country has been divided into six provinces, each hosting a provincial government that delivers decentralised services to its people:

- TORBA (Torres and Banks island groups)
- SANMA (Santo and Malo)
- PENAMA (Pentecost, Ambae and Maewo)
- MALAMPA (Malekula, Ambrym and Paama)
- SHEFA (Shepherds group, Epi and Efate)
- TAFEA (Tanna, Aniwa, Futuna, Erromango and Aneityum)

11. Vanuatu has one of the fastest growing economies in the Pacific region with tourism, construction and aid inflows the main drivers for growth. Much of this economic activity is centred in and in the vicinity of the two main urban centres Port Vila and Luganville. The majority of tourists are day visitors on cruise ships. In

2013 there were about 286,000 visitor arrivals to Vanuatu, 194,000 on cruise ships and 92,000 air passenger arrivals. Tourism related activities, including retail trade, represent about 40% of GDP. The other significant service industries are wholesale and retail trade, the government and the off-shore sector. Activities in the off-shore sector include the provision of off-shore financial and administrative services.

12. Outside the urban and peri-urban areas, the economy is based primarily on agriculture, mostly for subsistence but increasingly profit oriented. Tourism activities are important in some areas, notably Tanna (Yasur volcano) and Pentecost (*Nangol* or land diving) and are emerging in other areas. There are limited opportunities for wage based employment in rural areas outside provincial centres in local governments, retail and agriculture. Agricultural production is limited to a narrow range of products. Five commodities (copra, coconut oil, beef, cocoa and kava) make up the bulk of domestic exports. The kava (*Piper methysticum*) trade declined dramatically following a ban on kava products put in place in importing countries. The fisheries sector contributes minimally, with only 1.0% of GDP. The estimated contribution to GDP of the primary sector is currently 21%, of which 16% represents crop production.

13. As a small open economy, Vanuatu faces the dual challenge of large fluctuations on the external side and a limited production base on the domestic side. Its natural beauty and unique amalgamation of different cultures provide inherent opportunities for tourism. At the same time, its small population and distance to major markets form large barriers to manufacturing. Ensuring that the population has equitable access to health and education services and opportunities for economic growth is a major problem with remote islands and inland communities with rugged terrain and, in the island communities, limited sites suitable for wharfs or landing strips.

14. The 2009 Census of Population and Housing enumerated the country's population at 234,023, which reflects an annual population growth of 2.3% since the 1999 Census. This growth rate means Vanuatu has one of the fastest growing populations in the Pacific, alongside Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. The total fertility rate of four live births per woman remains amongst the highest in the region, despite a modest decline from 4.4 in 1999. The population of 234,023 live in 47,373 households, reflecting an average household size of 4.8, which represents a small decrease from 5.1 in 1999.

15. Three-out-of-four ni-Vanuatu (75%) live in rural areas, where infrastructure and access to services is generally poor outside the main provincial centres or settlements. Some 15.9% live below the national poverty line. Half of Vanuatu's people are women. Family arrangements are changing and traditional social protection measures are eroding, no longer adequately protecting women, children and the elderly³. There are a growing and significant number of female-headed households. At the same time certain jobs as well as access to property, land, skills and other economic resources are in effect only open to men.

16. The population structure of Vanuatu is young, with around 45% aged 15 years and younger. The pressing issues affecting young people today involve identity and self-expression, uncertainty about their future, unemployment and underemployment, and education. Many school leavers do not have adequate or appropriate skills to secure one of the few waged jobs available, or the skills, access to resources and drive needed for agricultural work or to sustain alternative livelihood options.

17. Vanuatu's economy has strengthened in recent years, with strong economic growth from 2003 to 2008, averaging around 6% per annum, led by large scale projects in infrastructure and foreign investment.

³ European Commission. The Country Strategy & National Indicative Programme. Vanuatu. 10th European Development Fund (EDF) Programme of the European Commission (2008-2013)

Economic growth slowed in 2009 to 3.3% and was estimated at a modest 1.8% in 2012, due to contraction in the industry sector with decreased output from the construction and manufacturing sectors, with weak growth in agriculture and services.

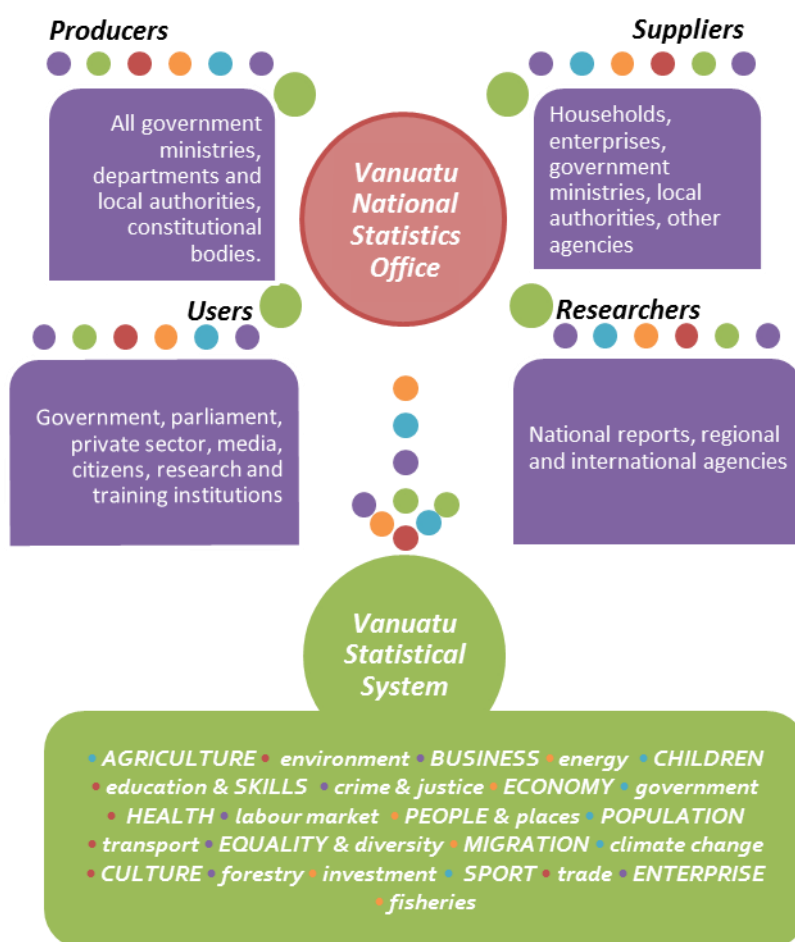
18. Recent political stability, prudent fiscal management, a concerted program to improve rural infrastructure, transport and communication as well as deregulation to foster private-sector led growth has led to improved confidence in the economy with construction, tourism, services, and a steady real estate sector being the main drivers of economic growth. Inflation has been contained at single-digit levels.

2 Current state of the VSS

2.1 The VSS

19. Vanuatu has a centralised statistical system, with the VNSO having the legal responsibility to coordinate the production and dissemination of official statistics. The effectiveness and credibility of the VSS to develop, produce and disseminate statistics is influenced by a range of institutional and organisational factors. In recent years there has been increased recognition given to statistical activities and the importance of “statistics informed” policy, resulting in increased resources dedicated for quality, timely and reliable statistics throughout the VSS.

Figure 1: Vanuatu Statistical System



20. There is no separate legislation or regulations for the governance of the VSS, although the importance of the VSS is reflected in the Statistics Amendment Act, 2013, where the mandate of the Statistics Advisory Committee (SAC) is to advise the Minister responsible for statistics and the Statistician on:

- i. the annual and longer term work program of the office; and
- ii. the improvement, extension and co-ordination of statistical services in Vanuatu; and
- iii. matters relating generally to statistical services.

21. SAC committee members are appointed by the Minister for a three year term, with the Statistics Act 2013 specifying that the committee comprise persons from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and Community Services, the Ministry of Trade and Business Development, the Office of the Prime Minister. It further includes representatives from the Chamber of Commerce, the National Council of Chiefs and the National Tourism Council. The Minister can, at his or her discretion, appoint researchers to assist the SAC with its mandate.

2.2 Strategic analysis of the VSS and development needs

22. The strategic analysis was based on the assessment of the VSS and was developed by the STAFs. The strategic objectives were identified as common elements in most if not all of the STAFs, noting that the detailed production strategies and implementation framework varies agency by agency. The VNSDS builds on statistical activities across all sectors with multiple stakeholders. Implementation will often involve agencies working together, with donor support for financing statistical activities and associated technical assistance and capacity building. The VNSO, in its legal mandate to coordinate the VSS, is responsible for coordination of the various component parts of the VNSDS, as well as reporting on the monitoring and evaluation of VNSDS progress through acting as the secretariat of the SAC.

23. The VNSDS is an organic, living document and its success depends on regular review and adjustment to reflect emerging issues, changing circumstances, technological innovations and priorities under the governance of the SAC. The strategic interventions required for a comprehensive core national dataset, coordinated stakeholder inputs and outputs of the highest quality, accessible to all users in a timely manner follow.

2.2.1 Regulatory framework and policy environment

24. The governance body for the VNSDS will be the SAC; in the absence of a high level committee overseeing the national statistical service and associated legal mandate. The overarching policy the VNSDS is designed to deliver statistical information for is the Priorities and Action Agenda 2006-2015 (PAA), which is currently being reviewed and revised to incorporate sustainable development issues related to the environment and biodiversity management and conservation, climate change mitigation and disaster risk reduction as well as other areas the current Government will include. The revision will include a tighter monitoring and evaluation framework, something lacking in the PAA. International guidelines for statistics for these areas have recently been developed so have been included in the VNSDS, noting that these could be adjusted based on the specific priorities in the final national sustainable development strategy due to be finalised in late 2014.

25. Vanuatu is policy rich, and there are numerous policies at the sector level which have been incorporated into the VNSDS dealing with the agricultural, fisheries and forestry sector; trade, industry and commerce; education and human resources; health; justice; infrastructure and inter-island transport; gender; youth; disability; renewable energy and ICT. This provides a valuable framework for the review of the availability of statistical information in the context of the annual work and business plans submitted by government ministries. It also provides the opportunity to introduce standard indicators and statistical infrastructure to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the VSS.

26. Annually the PMO releases the Annual Development Report, a stocktake of the previous 12 months in relation to PAA priority development areas. In the revision process the SAC will engage with the PMO to ensure that statistical development needs reflected in the VNSDS are included in the national development strategy.

2.2.2 Consultation, cooperation and coordination

27. At the highest level consultation, cooperation and coordination on statistical systems will be incorporated into the national sustainable development strategy review as well as a function of the SAC in terms of monitoring and reviewing progress of VNSDS implementation and activities.

28. In the medium term the effectiveness of consultation, cooperation and coordination within the VSS would benefit from strengthening VNSO capacity to implement:

- a. common statistical frames used by statisticians responsible for different surveys related with the same classes of statistical units (households, businesses)
- b. common metadata base of official statistics used as the mandatory source of metadata for interrelated “families” of statistical surveys,
- c. common methodology of surveys design and their documentation,
- d. common system of training and education of statisticians for the VSS.

29. Coordination and cooperation will improve significantly when statistical indicators are mainstreamed into the policy and strategy framework development process. There have been improvements in this area since the establishment of the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit in the Prime Minister’s Office but this needs to be fully institutionalised and associated collection, processing and dissemination systems included in activities, staffing, costings and budgets.

2.2.3 Human resources, training, capacity building and career pathways

30. Human resource capacity building should be continuous in the VSS as agencies respond to ever changing demands for statistical information, analysis and take advantage of developments in ICT to improve the range, quality, reliability and timeliness of statistics for informed decision making. The VNSO has to take the lead role, under the guidance of the SAC, to ensure that there is a sound technical training program for statisticians and managers in the VSS.

31. Within the VSS there are several training providers, with the VNSO taking the lead for training in data analysis and report writing as well as survey operations and procedures. Statisticians participate in specialised subject matter training workshops of donor partners, either in-country or at a regional level. Statisticians are eligible to attend training courses organised by the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific in Tokyo, and statisticians need to be identified to attend training courses best suited to them. Likewise training in economic statistics is available from the IMF. The Australasian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has been providing training to statisticians since 2013 as part of a regional project, while Statistics New Zealand selects participants for subject matter based training attachments and will be offering in-country training to users of statistics in 2015. In addition the USP offers courses in statistics and official statistics.

32. Challenges identified during stakeholder consultations include out of date ICT systems, limited capacity in questionnaire design, varying degrees of supervision, management and leadership, ad hoc performance reporting systems, and insufficient statistical and analytical skills. To address this, VNSO will facilitate training in core and advanced short-courses in leadership, management and administration, ICT including database management, IT and statistical software packages, in addition to subject matter training such as fundamentals of official statistics, survey basics, statistics in policy development, data analysis (time

series analysis, models, forecasting, seasonal adjustment) and report writing etc. For more senior level staff post-graduate studies in public sector management and business administration courses should be facilitated on a part-time in-country basis. However training needs assessments and learning pathways need to be developed for every statistician in the VSS to take advantage of existing training courses and courses will have to be developed of relevance to the Vanuatu context as statistical standards and infrastructure improvements are rolled out in the VSS.

2.2.4 Financial resources

33. Sufficient financial resources must be allocated to the VSS to allow for the implementation of the VNSDS and to maintain the ongoing activities and outputs in the future. A detailed financial resource plan should be developed for every two year period of the plan, while including the known cost estimates for large undertakings like the Census and two-year survey program. Financial resource requirements include those related to conducting surveys, administrative expenses such as human resource development costs, costs related to repairing, maintaining and upgrading statistical infrastructure and costs incurred throughout the production process.

34. The integrated government, constitutional body and donor assistance budget for VNSDS implementation across the VSS needs to be adequate in the first years to ensure that capacity building and infrastructure needs are addressed to enable the roll out of collection and dissemination systems. This can be achieved through adopting a sector wide approach to bi-annual budget preparation process with governance from the SAC and adherence to financial reporting requirements, including audits, of government and donor partners. In 2014 the government recurrent budget for the VNSO was Vt 60.7 million of which 75% was for staff remuneration. This compares with the 2013 budget of Vt 61.8 million, with the decreases mostly to do reduced budget for general office administration (communications etc).

35. In 2014 the VNSO changed its budget structure to align cost centres with the six office groupings: the Statistician, administration, provincial offices, Statistical Leadership and Coordination (SLC) section; Social Statistics Section and Economic Statistics Section. Table 2 following is a summary of the 2014 cost centres, where the remuneration budget is for all staff other than the province officers and the Statistician where remuneration is included in the cost centre. Overall 37% of the government budget is for operations, with the lowest budget for the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistics in the province offices at 8%; while the economic and social sections have almost 90% of allocated funds for statistical collections of which a significant proportion involves local travel and workshops. Clearly there is potential in the medium term to increase the allocation to the collection of statistics in the provinces from these two sections; with the caveat that the province offices can provide the required statistical information. Table 2 shows that the Government budget is insufficient for any major statistical data collection and dissemination, with the recurrent budget funding the CPI, monthly tourism, monthly trade and annual national accounts statistics (trade and national accounts rely heavily on administrative data from other organisations).

Table 2: VNSO 2014 Government Budget (Vt) and Proportion for Operations

Cost Centre	Amount (Vt)	% Operations ¹
NSO Director	3,122,710	13%
Province Offices	12,060,760	8%
Administration section ²	5,055,504	62%
SLC section	2,223,915	89%
Economic section	2,709,001	88%
Social section	1,071,502	89%
Remuneration	34,414,196	
Total	60,657,588	37%

Note ¹ Operations excludes costs of office rent or repair etc, utilities, maintenance contracts, or value added tax. Remuneration includes all employees except the Statistician and the province officers where remuneration is part of the cost centre. ² Includes budget items for the whole organisation such as printing and the operation of the two office vehicles.

36. The cost of household surveys varies according to a number of factors. Technical assistance requirements are a significant budget component for some surveys and for others this is included on an 'in kind' basis, such as the SPC funded surveys for living conditions (Hybrid Survey) and the Demographic and Health Survey. Budgets vary based on the staff recruited under the survey funds, for example the 2009 Census included funds for the salary of the Manager, Assistant and financial officer. When dissemination is included in the budget it is a significant amount, as for the 2009 Census series of 'results' workshops held in every province. The 2009 Census and the 2010 HIES surveys received a significant proportion of funding from the Vanuatu Government. The DHS required medical supplies and testing equipment which added to the budget. Table 3 illustrates the cost of major household surveys since the 2009 Census, noting that DHS expenditure is not complete and all surveys involve VNSO costs in terms of staff salaries seconded to work on the data collection which are not included. VNSO does not have records for the separate costs of the informal and formal sector business survey conducted in 2011, with combined funds from the Government of Australia at Vt 6.7 million.

Table 3: Indicative survey costs, Vatu

Survey	Source of funds (Vt)	
	Donor	Government
2009 Census	84,000,000	70,000,000
2010 HIES	76,000,000	54,000,000
2013 Hybrid	24,000,000	Salaries & Pilot
2014 DHS ¹	64,000,000	Salaries
Annual school survey ²	2.6 million	

Note ¹ DHS costs not final; donor contribution includes Vt 15,000,000 in kind technical assistance. Vanuatu government costs estimate based on salary and 20% of overall budget estimate. ² Source of funds details for annual school survey come from consolidated pool of government and donor funds.

37. Outside the VNSO government agencies do not have detailed financial records of the budget for statistical activities with the exception of the Ministry of Education's budget for the Annual School Survey, which is mostly donor funded. The Ministry of Health has database officers placed in each province for the decentralised entry of the monthly returns from health facilities; as well as head office staff who work part-time on the consolidated national database. However there are insufficient funds for compliance activities and ensuring all facilities provide their monthly statistical summary forms.

2.2.5 ICT and data management

38. The output of the strategy to improve ICT use and have effective data management systems in place is a repository of publically accessible data analysis, summaries, statistical tabulations and visualisations as well as data for analysis in appropriate formats (anonymised, documented, different formats etc). The system has to be accessible by the public via the internet and also for stakeholders in the VSS to update on a shared network drive. The foundation for the publicly accessible system is a secure area for statisticians and analysts to store data and information, common tools and processing systems; share experiences and receive assistance for analysis and so on. The VNSO would be responsible for the maintenance of the overall system and updating the public area.

39. There are a wide range of ICT and data management issues to address for this system to be operational. These range from setting up computer networks between line agencies and the VNSO for sharing of information to purchasing ICT equipment and designing systems in agencies without any statistical infrastructure. In all agencies data analysts and statisticians data management practices need to improve with too much reliance on computer hard drives temporary files on the network which are not backed up, multiple versions of 'working' files or directories, no receipt or control procedures for access to data files for updating and so on. A significant amount of data is at risk because of these practices and the result is little transparency in data management and a corresponding high burden on individual staff to manage and update systems.

2.2.6 Statistics system at province and lower geographic levels

40. The VNSO has a network of statistics officers throughout the five provinces with Shefa province served by the main office in Port Vila. VNSO reviewed the work of these officers in 2011, discussed statistical needs with stakeholders in all provinces and is developing a plan to move some of the province officers to Port Vila for capacity building in prices data collection, further training in survey management and data processing and specific data collections to meet province information needs, such as forestry and tourism in Tafea province. As noted in paragraph 35, the current budget allocation for VNSO provincial officers is inadequate to finance regular and ongoing data collections, with only the Torba and Sanma offices having access to the Government ICT network at their desktop⁴.

41. Other agencies including education, health, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, customs, police, civil status, tourism, public works, finance and cooperatives are decentralised in the provinces. The officers from education and health are responsible for data collection and transfer to national government, cooperatives provide monthly reports on activities, while agricultural officers provide some statistical reports in terms of assistance provided to communities, the frequency of which is determined by the funds made available for these activities. If properly resourced with a reporting framework and statistical infrastructure considerable statistical information could be made available from these sources.

2.2.7 Data quality

42. The VNSO and agencies in the VSS are generally committed to improving the quality of statistical outputs, but lack the resources and technical capacity to do so. The VNSO, for example, does not have a quality policy for the organisation or specific quality policies for major outputs. Quality statements are included in general 'fit for use' terms as part of technical reports, where these are produced. The VNSO has recently introduced a policy of developing metadata for all household surveys, and this should be extended to all data collections including administrative data. Some of this metadata includes general statements about

⁴ The Penama office is in the provincial headquarters which has access to the e-government network but there is no cabling in the office used by the VNSO.

quality. Meta data, including documentation on methods and procedures is not generally made publically available unless by request if it exists; and such information is provided on a request basis. The meta data standard used by VNSO needs to be replicated by other agencies in the VSS to increase the transparency of statistical information.

43. Quality control procedures for household and other surveys are weak, as evidenced by high non-response rates to business surveys, incomplete returns on school facilities and finance in the annual school survey and the need for considerable checking and editing of survey data. This is in part because resources for this – staff and funds – are generally insufficient. Product quality is reviewed based on the availability of technical assistance to do so as agencies do not have this capacity; and probably should not invest limited resources in this area as regional and international technical assistance is available.

44. The VSS needs to develop a quality standard for the use of national classifications and frameworks, with different agencies using different classifications for the same thing. The geographic classification needs revision and updating to reduce the costs of data collection at the ‘enumeration area’ level – the lowest area in the national classification; and this needs to be linked to the GIS system. The VNSO needs to build expertise in classifications and coding to reduce errors made in coding and ensure that the same classifications and reference ‘code lists’, as well as training in how to use the classifications, are used in the organisation which then can be used in the wider VSS.

2.2.8 Data availability and access

45. The VSS does not have systems in place to regularly consult users, monitor the relevance and utility of existing statistics in meeting their needs as well as considering emerging needs and priorities. This is currently done on an ad hoc basis, when major surveys or policy reviews are conducted and based on feedback received on releases. It is anticipated that the bi-annual meetings of the Statistics Advisory Council to discuss statistical priorities will meet this need; along with the more specialised consultations done by agencies as policies and strategies are developed and reviewed.

46. The Annual Development Report is produced on an annual basis and is the main monitoring and evaluation document used by government and donor agencies for the national development strategy. The report is compiled by the PMO with statistical information provided by the VNSO and agencies in the VSS. There are numerous data gaps because agencies do not include the required information in their annual reports, despite the endorsement from agencies that this will be done: the statistical data and information required are not routinely collected, and updating and data management systems are weak.

47. Users want access to timely statistical information and indicators in a format that they understand and can use immediately. The periodicity of statistics generally meets the needs of users, with the exceptions of national accounts and trade in services which users would like released more frequently. The periodicity of the household survey program needs to be reviewed and better managed based around the ten-yearly Census cycle. For example, prior to the Census of 2009 the HIES of 2006 and Agriculture Census of 2007 were conducted; although the Agriculture Census incorporated part of the household listing for the Census. After the Census there was the HIES in 2010, the 2012-13 Hybrid, the 2013 Rural Agriculture Smallholder Survey (pilot) and the 2013-14 DHS-MICS; with VNSO assisting with numerous data collections managed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and Community Services, the Vanuatu Tourism Council, and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities. This is a very demanding data collection program for a small country to manage and ensure quality and timely outputs; stretching resources on the collection side, to the detriment of analysis and dissemination of data, and results of other surveys.

48. The VNSO releases microdata with specific rules and protocols using a standard application process with subsequent review and the issuing of a data licence. VNSO has entered into 'data licence' agreements with regional and international agencies for the release of unit record data for archiving and research. Confidentiality measures used for research data involve the removal of unique household identifier information. As far as possible VNSO tries to ensure agreements with research agencies involve a training component for VNSO staff. VNSO has made the 2009 Census of Population and Housing data available on the internet in the UNFPA sponsored "Redatam" software format⁵ and provided training to key users in the use of the software.

2.2.9 Data analysis and dissemination

49. A program of data analysis training needs to be embedded in the VSS, with a number of delivery modalities to be evaluated; linked with training and human resource requirements outlined in section 2.2.3. Invariably data analysis training involves the user of computer software making it relatively complex and expensive to deliver. These include data analysis training as part of the Vanuatu Institute of Public Administration and Management program, a 'summer school' type program offered through USP or a private training provider, self-paced Internet training courses for those comfortable with this medium of delivery, one-on-one training and mentoring for specialised statistical analysis and so on. Simple Microsoft Excel templates with statistical tabulations and graphics would be shared by the VSS, developed according to the core national dataset for the Annual Development Report.

50. Dissemination services use modern ICT and hard copy as appropriate for distribution to users without internet or computer access. Since the 2009 Census the VNSO has implemented a policy of disseminating major releases for communities and leaders in workshops to improve general statistical literacy and understanding of the uses of statistical data. This was done successfully with the results of the 2009 Census and series of thematic profiles on gender and youth conducted in all six provincial headquarters; and will be done with the results of the DHS. The VNSO conducted the Census workshops with counterparts from the PMO to link the statistical information to government policy and development strategies.

51. There is no integrated plan or program for dissemination of the full range of outputs from the VSS data collections, making it difficult for users to access statistical information from one source. Dissemination could be more effective if agencies combine resources and conduct joint workshops, seminars or briefings on data releases. Releases need to be presented in non-technical language, linked to policy initiatives or programs, be highly visual and extensively use graphics for users ranging from those with low statistical literacy to those who can perform their own analysis from statistical tabulations and data.

2.2.10 Partnerships with the media

52. All agencies in the VSS need to make effective use of the media in disseminating statistics. The VNSO conducted a basic training workshop on how to interpret and analyse statistical releases for a media group but has not formed a strong bond with journalists and statistics are sometimes presentation or analysis in the newspaper could be improved or is misleading. All agencies should produce media releases associated with statistical releases, analysis and reports for print, radio and television media. Then these releases need to be presented to the media in a 'press room' situation to explain the information in the release and how it should be presented and interpreted.

⁵ Data available at <http://www.vnsoredatam.gov.vu/cgibin/RpWebEngine.exe/PortalAction?&MODE=MAIN&BASE=vuvcensus09&MAIN=WebServerMain.inl> as well as information about Redatam.

53. Major statistical surveys or releases require communications strategies and the coordinated and concerted use of the media to disseminate key results and messages, as well as stimulate discussion and debate. National reports, such as the Annual Development Report or human rights reports should have associated statistical summaries or statistical report cards to highlight trends and graphically present statistical information with clear, simple messages for print media.

2.2.11 Statistical literacy and advocacy

54. Statistical literacy is a term used to describe the ability of an individual or a group to understand and comprehend statistics. If people are to become more statistically literate, they need to be taught to use statistics – numbers, rates, ratios, percentages etc – in the situations they encounter in their daily life as workers, consumers and community members. Initiatives need to be put into practice to increase statistical literacy in all fields of society: for scholars and students, for journalists, for decision makers in politics and businesses and overall for the general public. To improve the statistical literacy of students, teachers need to broaden their focus from computational aspects of statistics, to include developing deeper understanding of statistical ideas and related reasoning processes.

55. Statistical literacy activities need to be targeted towards respondents so that they understand the importance of data, which will result in improved response rates, respondents are assured of confidentiality, and they are more aware of the reasons for collecting the data. Increasing trust in statistics and understanding the importance of data to policy- and decision-making is a key statistical literacy objective. The VNSO has provided more detailed training to survey interviewers and enumerators about the reasons why the data is being collected as a means to improving statistical literacy but acknowledges that more needs to be done to present the results of statistical data collections to communities and organisations providing data.

56. Active and systematic engagement with the media will contribute to improving overall statistical literacy and provide more opportunities for advocacy for the use of statistical information for informed decision making. A monthly column and blog similar to “The Numbers Guy” column in the Wall Street Journal or the daily and weekly chart in the Economist would contribute to statistical literacy and advocacy. The VNSO needs to expand participation in its two-yearly ‘Statistics Day’ activities to include more VSS members and have more publicity, open the event to the public and have featured lectures or debates, presentations of awards, announcement of competition winners and so on. In 2014 Statistics Day will celebrate the launching of the VNSDS. Statistical literacy and advocacy programs need to be integrated into the upper primary and secondary school syllabus; with statistical agencies producing ‘school packs’ for major statistical outputs such as the Census or GDP releases. Teachers need training and support in using the information. The VNSO receives numerous requests for statistical data from senior secondary and university students where research and analysis is required in course work and should have ‘on hand’ the statistical data and analysis packs students require. Political parties, politicians and their advisors are increasingly using statistical information in manifestos and campaigns and more support should be provided to increase the use of statistical information at this level.

57. Within government, the policy development and approval process needs to ensure that appropriate statistical data and indicators are included in monitoring and evaluation frameworks. This includes the highest levels of the policy approval process: the Council of Ministers and parliamentarians and political advisors.

3 Strategies for the VSS

3.1 Vision and mission

58. The vision sets out the aspiration of the VSS to build partnerships and increase cooperation and coordination in the national statistical service. The vision the VSS aspires to achieve in the implementation of the VNSDS is:

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

59. The mission is the core business of the VSS. The data must be of high quality, reliable and timely to assist the government and the community to make better informed decisions. Statistical systems must be strengthened and developed to meet emerging needs in the social and environment area. This will rely on building and maintaining relationships with key providers and users of statistics. To continually improve the VSS must monitor past and current performance to plan well and build a stronger future. The mission of the VSS is:

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

3.2 Values

60. The VNSDS values reflect the guiding principles and behaviours the VSS believe in as a national statistical service:

a. Professionalism

- Upholding the highest standard of professional ethics in coordinate, produce and disseminate quality statistical data
- Adhering to principles of justice and fairness
- Maintaining national data and knowledge management systems at the highest standard

b. Social and cultural values

- Cherishing and upholding cultural diversity and values in all our activities

c. Partnerships

- Maintaining effective working relationships with all stakeholders
- Advocating and educating about the use of statistical information for sound decision making
- Effective use of the media to build statistical literacy

d. Integrity

- Committed to maintaining confidentiality with data collection and statistical information
- Taking all efforts to make sure respondent burden reasonable

e. Reliability, accuracy and consistency

- Ensuring consistent, reliable and accurate statistics for all
- Collect, process and disseminate data and information in a timely manner

f. Sound management

- Providing effective, timely, accurate and user friendly knowledge management systems for users

g. Sustainability

- Developing a sustainable national statistical system meeting the needs of all stakeholders

h. Client focused

- Maintain responsive and open communication to partners and stakeholders
 - Ensure that clients are satisfied with statistical outputs through regular consultation and review

3.3 Strategic objectives

61. The strategic analysis of the VSS established that the system faces a number of challenges which have to be addressed for the VSS to achieve its vision and accomplish its mission. Key cross cutting objectives are:

3.3.1 Robust institutional environment

62. To be effective, a **sound policy and legislative framework** should empower the VSS, which includes the need to consult stakeholders and clients about the legal mandate for the VSS and draft appropriate policies, agreements, legislation or regulations to align statistical collections and outputs to national development priorities through streamlined monitoring and evaluation systems for policy goals and objectives. Address broader issues related to the stability of the policy implementation process and the broader planning level. The VNSDS empowers the SAC to review, monitor and evaluate statistical activities in relation to the wider policy and legal environment.

63. The **budget allocation for statistical activities in the VSS must be adequate**. Some agencies do not have sufficient operating budgets for the regular collection, compilation and dissemination of statistical information or large data collections require external assistance to supplement government contribution. The VNSDS provides an organised framework of statistical activities which are prioritised to facilitate the mobilisation of financial resource for the activities.

Development need	Actions required ^a	Priority ^b	Timing
Sound policy and legislative framework for the VSS	SAC to request Vanuatu Law Commission to review legislation of agencies in the VSS to ensure that agencies have the authority to collect and disseminate statistical information contained in the VNSDS	1	2014
Mainstreaming statistical monitoring and evaluation frameworks with policy development process	VSS agencies review of all existing policies for common indicators, gaps and possible adjustments to standardise indicators	1	2014-15
	Strengthen VNSO capacity to develop statistical indicators and collection systems for core national dataset and associated documentation	2	2015 →
	VNSO to centralise statistical indicators and provide access to the core national dataset and associated documentation	1	2014 →
Coordination mechanism for VSS and implementation of VNSDS	SAC to endorse short term activities and budget for VNSDS implementation across the VSS.	1	2014
Funding for VNSDS implementation	VNSO convene donor coordination and harmonisation meeting for financing the VNSDS, at least annually.	1	2014→

3.3.2 Improved human resources

64. The impact of staff turnover on availability of statistics needs to be reduced, with one strategy to increase retention of skilled statisticians through increased remuneration and the identification of career pathways and associated training. This is addressed in the VNSDS implementation framework.

65. Staff working with statistics need training needs assessments and an associated ongoing training programme developed and implemented targeted at statistical outputs and regular statistical releases. VSS training modules need to be developed and used by all agencies for household surveys; the use of classifications and coding; and, depending on the systems, data entry and processing. These issues are addressed under statistical production strategies.

^a Agency responsible for completing action is in bold highlight. ^b Priority 1 starts before end of 2014, 2 is between 2015 and 2016 and 3 is between 2017 and 2020. → signifies an ongoing activity.

Development need	Actions required ^a	Priority ^b	Timing
Core set of national statistical data and indicators	Restructure the VNSO to align work units with the needs of the statistical system and the VNSDS, including a review of remuneration scales based on core competencies and deliverables/outputs.	1	2014-17
Link training programs with career pathways	Develop training needs of all middle- and senior-management in the VNSO for post-graduate studies in management and technical statistics.	2	2015 →
	VNSO and SAC to develop calendar of statistical training opportunities and disseminate to the VSS	2	2015 →
	All VNSO staff to receive an induction training program and training in the performance management system.	1	2014 →
Improve capacity for human resource management and planning	Increase the capacity of the VNSO Corporate Services Unit to support the human resources development program and deliver strategic and corporate planning.	2	2015 →
Capacity building across VSS	Review of all VSS position/job descriptions to include core competencies for ICT use (for example, intermediate Excel, basic database reporting/queries required).	2	2015
Ongoing training and capacity building	Develop ongoing mentoring and coaching program within the VSS .	2	2015 →
Skill requirements and development linked to core competencies	Develop training needs of all statistics staff in the VSS from survey basics, questionnaire design, database/data processing systems design, data analysis and reporting and developing dissemination strategies.	2	2015-16
Training and capacity building opportunities need to be better communicated to VSS	VNSO to develop annual training and capacity building program and disseminate to all VSS stakeholders, including national, regional and international training and capacity building programs.	2	2015 →

3.3.3 Effective partnerships

66. **Effective consultation, cooperation and coordination** is required at all levels, with clients, stakeholders and donors to add value to dissemination of the core national dataset, address data gaps and meet statistical demands for emerging issues. The VNSDS empowers the SAC to review, monitor and evaluate statistical activities across the VSS to negotiate, legitimise, build and maintain relationships with respondents and users of data.

67. **Partnerships for increased advocacy, improved literacy** involves the implementation of communications strategies will maximise the coordinated and concerted use of the media to disseminate key results and messages as will statistical literacy initiatives. The implementation of the VNSDS under SAC guidance will ensure that advocacy and literacy programmes are integral to statistical production strategies.

Development need	Actions required ^a	Priority ^b	Timing
Effective coordination in the production of official statistics in Vanuatu	SAC to establish a committee consisting of focal points from appropriate departments to harmonise and standardise statistical activities to generate a coherent, integrated set of statistics about social, demographic, economic, and environmental conditions of Vanuatu	1	2014-15
	Strengthen VNSO capacity to implement common statistical frames, classifications, meta data, data	2	2015 →

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Development need	Actions required ^a	Priority ^b	Timing
	collection methodologies and training program for the VSS		
	SAC to prioritise, review, monitor and evaluate statistical activities across the VSS to negotiate, legitimise, build and maintain relationships with respondents and users of data	2	2015 →
Information and communications plans for statistical data and information	VSS meta data developed for statistical collections include the communications strategy for communicating results through the media.	3	2017 →
Closer working relations with the media	VSS strategy to improve media relations, endorsed by the SAC, to include program to work with Media Association Blong Vanuatu including identification of statistics focal points in various media.	2	2015 →
	All major statistical releases made by VSS agencies include a 'pre-release' session with media representatives about interpretation and presentation of statistical release.	1	2014 →
	VSS agencies roll out media kits for their major statistical releases.	2	2016 →
Statistical literacy and advocacy	VNSO to develop statistical literacy plan to be endorsed by the SAC containing strategies for raising awareness, developing partnerships, support services and so on for key groups.	3	2017 →
	VSS/SAC strategy to improve statistical literacy include resources for province officers to conduct literacy and advocacy activities.	3	2017 →
	VSS/SAC to work with Ministry of Education to provide learning resources and examples to increase statistical literacy and training for teachers, organise 'math weeks', on-line discussions and forums and the like.	3	2017 →
	VNSO to coordinate two-yearly celebration of Vanuatu Statistics Day and include poster competitions for primary and secondary school students, guest lectures and the like.	1	2014 →

3.3.4 Sound data and information management

68. Both users and producers of statistics recognise the need for a **core national dataset of the highest quality**. The strategies include developing programme of continuous improvement in data quality based on use of international and regional standards, documentation and metadata, verification and validation systems and other data quality checks routine for output statistics. The VNSDS implementation framework provides strategies to improve and maintain data quality.

69. To provide users with **access to timely statistical information** they need access to publicised dates and schedules for statistical releases, centralised access, calendars for collection activities, use of pre-releases while maximising strategies to improve data quality, ICT efficiencies and early identification and interventions for system bottlenecks. The statistical production strategies and associated detailed workplans and delivery schedules contained in the VNSDS will maximise access to the core national dataset.

70. **Relevant analysis and broad dissemination** needs to be based on a wider program of training and educating policy and decision makers about the meaningful and regular use of data and statistical information. This in turn requires improved access to timely, user-friendly and relevant statistical information (including

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metadata) appropriate to user needs. On the supply side, the roll-out of capacity building for data analysis and interpretation based around a resourced workplan of dissemination activities with outputs appropriate to the information needs of clients. The VNSDS empowers the SAC to review, monitor and evaluate statistical outputs and dissemination activities in relation to the needs of stakeholders.

71. The VSS needs to make **use of appropriate ICT to improve access to statistical information**. Better use needs to be made of the iGov Initiative (e-government) of the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) to improve knowledge and data management, reduce data loss with backup, disaster risk reduction and recovery systems, develop sustainable data processing systems and training programmes using standard software and templates as far as practical. The VNSDS provides a coordinated platform for the use of ICT and data management systems in the VSS.

72. The VSS needs to provide users with **statistical information and indicators at lower geographic levels**. Adequate financial and technical resources and capacity building need to be mobilised for the decentralised network of VSS agencies at the province level to provide inputs for the core national dataset. The strategies contained in the VNSDS will build capacity of VNSO provincial statistical offices to provide statistical information at the province and area council level in the medium term.

Development need	Actions required ^a	Priority ^b	Timing
Quality statements are available for all statistical releases and data collections	VNSO develop statistics meta data and quality templates and train VSS statisticians in how to use it.	2	2015
	Statistics quality assessments and meta data are available for all data collections and releases in the VSS .	2	2015 →
Quality control procedures for statistical surveys need strengthening	VNSO develop training manuals and workshop materials on statistical survey data quality procedures and quality checks for administrative data sources.	2	2015 →
	Roll out statistical quality training workshops to VSS , and incorporate into all survey activities.	2	2015 →
Centralised classifications and associated material repository and training	VNSO to establish national standard classifications, code lists (or dictionaries) and frameworks and introduce the use of these through the VSS.	2	2016 →
	VNSO and VSS to review classifications, code lists and frameworks to implement national standards with associated concordances and supporting documentation.	3	2017 →
Regular dialogue between VSS and users of statistical information	VSS agencies to report at bi-annual SAC meeting on consultations with users and outcomes as coordination function of Deputy Government Statistician (new position).	1	2014 →
	VNSO to develop user satisfaction survey; make available on Internet website, in VNSO offices, VSS offices and telephone or personal interview with key users to obtain user feedback.	1	2014 →
Core national dataset for Annual Development Report	VSS to finalise and disseminate in first quarter core national dataset for drafting of the Annual Development Report.	2	2015 →
	VNSO to prepare analytical summary and visualisations for core national dataset.	2	2015 →
Medium term framework for statistical data collection activities	VNSO to develop integrated survey program (households, businesses, schools, health facilities etc) for VSS to be monitored and evaluated by the SAC.	2	2016 →
Access to survey microdata	VNSO to continue with its policy to release microdata	1	2014 →

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Development need	Actions required ^a	Priority ^b	Timing
	a for research purposes under data licence agreements.		
	VNSO to assist other agencies in VSS to prepare and disseminate microdata in line with Statistics Act requirements (confidentiality).	2	2015 →
Strengthened capacity for data analysis for routine output and dissemination	Program of national, sub-regional, regional, international and bi-lateral statistical training activities developed by VNSO and disseminated to VSS.	2	2015 →
	VNSO to conduct survey operations and data analysis and report writing training for VSS at least every two years.	2	2015 →
Central source of statistics on Vanuatu, access to information about VSS outputs	VNSO to coordinate the dissemination of statistical data, reports, policies etc initially on its Internet website (vnso.gov.vu) and eventually on a website for the VSS.	1	2014 →
Integrated program for workshops disseminating results of statistical releases for VSS	VNSO to coordinate VSS reporting to SAC on integrated program for statistical information dissemination workshops and activities with the program developed with multi-agency support.	3	2016 →
Reliable ICT systems	VSS agencies develop ICT standard and protocols for positions with a statistics function in VSS.	2	2016
	VSS agencies develop detailed costing of implementing ICT standard.	3	2017
Capacity building in knowledge management	VSS agencies identify core outputs for public access to statistical data, indicators, analysis and cross-tabulations and develop system for public to access.	2	2016
	Capacity building for VNSO to maintain system and VSS stakeholders to provide information.	2	2016 →
Reliable statistics at the province, area council and village level	VSS agencies develop statistical information and indicator framework for the provinces.	2	2015
	VSS agencies develop detailed implementation plan including budget for sub-national statistics across VSS.	2	2016
	VSS agencies collect, compile and disseminating statistical information in the core national dataset at the province and lower geographic levels	3	2017 →

4 Statistical production strategies

73. In addition to the strategic development needs and actions required in section 2.2, the following are the strategies identified for specific thematic areas.

4.1 Economic statistics

4.1.1 National Accounts and Gross Domestic Product

74. Vanuatu's National Account statistics are compiled and published by the VNSO. Since the current compilation system was developed in 2009, the aim has been to publish GDP annually; however 2011 and 2012 were published jointly due to delays in developing the alternative 'expenditure' estimates along with the production GDP series. The concepts and estimation methods applied are based on the System of National Accounts (SNA) 1993 standard, applying best practice based on expert advice provided by PFTAC and SPC.

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75. The VNSO has reasonably good access to technical assistance for national accounts from PFTAC and SPC based on a work plan developed by PFTAC. However it does not have the human resources to provide the required outputs and will require an additional economic statistician to achieve its goals of improving and refining coverage and methodological soundness, providing quality assessments and producing GDP on a sub-national and quarterly basis. This is based on the assumption that data collection and compilation systems will be in place for province statistics officers. Systems need to be in place for estimates of the agricultural economy, subsistence agriculture as well as formal and informal sector economic activity.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Improve coverage, timeliness and methodological soundness	VNSO , RBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop and implement work program from PFTAC for National Accounts including sector specific surveys (informal, vendors, non-profit institutions serving households) 	1	2014 →
	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal sector survey conducted every two years 	2	2015 →
	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Street vendor survey conducted every two years 	2	2016 →
	VNSO , DOLA, DCIR, VNPF, VIPA, FSC, DOTI, DOFT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop systems for province level GDP estimates and training and budget for province offices 	2	2015→
	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Province level GDP estimates released every two years 	3	2018 →
	VNSO , RBV, DCIR, VIPA, VNPF, FSC, DOLA, DOTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop ongoing quarterly business survey framework using a business register 	2	2015-16
	VNSO , RBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate updating of business register with data from quarterly RBV BoP survey 	2	2016 →
	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meta data and quality assessment incorporated into National Accounts releases 	2	2015
	VNSO , RBV, DCIR, VNPF, FSC, DOLA, DOTI, DOFT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with providers of administrative data to improve data quality and timeliness 	1	2014 →
Adequate human resources and capacity for GDP	VNSO , MFEM, PSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In restructuring plan ensure one new position for business statistics and National Accounts 	2	2015
	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop training and capacity building program for staff compiling and analysing National Accounts 	2	2015
Satellite accounts for tourism and the environment	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop satellite accounts for tourism and environment sectors including capacity building and TA for staff to collect and compile the required data 	3	2017 →

4.1.2 Prices

76. The VNSO produces a quarterly Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the two urban centres of Port Vila and Luganville with the retail outlet survey conducted quarterly and the municipal market survey fortnightly. The data entry and compilation system is Excel based and VNSO staff do not have the capacity to update the macro-based system so it is yet to be updated based on the basket of goods and services derived from the 2010 HIES. Staff have not had the necessary training and experience to make adjustments for different models and associated quality change, item substitution and new products, seasonality and so on. The system will have to be replaced if CPI coverage is to expand to the other four provincial centres. Users have requested

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price index information separately for local and imported products, but not a separate producer price index per sae; a technical feasibility study would be required due to the small size and monopolistic nature of the manufacturing sector in Vanuatu. Users also want to see average prices or separate more detailed indexes for some goods and services such as those related to transport as well as construction and building materials.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Improve quality and coverage	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop item specifications, collection sheets, data exchange system, and retail outlet sample for Sanma, Tafea, Torba, Penama and Malampa provinces 	2	2015
	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPI statistics released on quarterly basis at province level 	2	2016 →
	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meta data and quality assessment included in CPI releases 	2	2016 →
	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CPI regimen (basket of goods and services) updated on a regular basis from the 5-yearly HIES (or similar) survey and other administrative data sources 	2	2016 →
Increase range of CPI outputs	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review users specific data needs for average prices, details for sub-groups 	2	2015 →
Redevelop system	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise technical assistance and training to develop a CPI data processing system 	2	2015

4.1.3 Government Finance Statistics (GFS)

77. Vanuatu's GFS are compiled and published by the Budget Section in the Department of Finance and Treasury (DoFT) in its monthly fiscal reports, half year economic and fiscal update and its annual Fiscal Strategy Report. In 2012 GFS 2001 methodology was adopted in order to create clearer tables for policymakers to understand with work continuing on the full range of output tables required under GFS 01. There are plans to expand coverage to provincial governments and State Owned Enterprises (SOEs).

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Improve coverage of GFS	DoFT, VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise technical assistance to improve GFS as per IMF review recommendations 	1	2014 →
	DoFT, VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meta data and quality assessment available for GFS 	2	2016
Capacity building in GFS	DoFT, VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing training and capacity building program implemented for DoFT staff compiling GFS 	2	2015 →
	DoFT, VNSO, DOLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For roll-out at the Province level provide staff training and capacity building in GFS 	2	2016

4.1.4 Balance of Payments (BoP)

78. The Department of Research and Statistics (DoRaS) in the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu (RBV) is responsible for compiling and disseminating balance of payments statistics using the Sixth Edition of the IMF's Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual (BPM6) conceptual framework on a quarterly basis. The DoRaS has been working to improve the methodology and data for the compilation of offshore banking data with the Financial Institutions Supervision Department (FISD); the BoP with PFTAC and IMF assistance. Measures have been introduced to obtain more timely and accurate statistics on foreign investment and extend coverage of financial institutions. There is however no published methodology on BoP compilation.

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79. The RBV publishes BoP statistics in its quarterly and annual economic review publications. The RBV has not disseminated a release schedule for BoP statistics, its internet website is not up to date and often the BoP are not released as per GDDS guidelines (quarterly but often more than two months after the reference period). Users are interested in more detailed BoP statistics, such as the contribution of tourism to the services account.

80. The DoRaS has adequate staff and ensures that high response rates are maintained and data quality is consistent in its quarterly survey of business activity. The VNSO conducted a formal sector survey in 2011 but did not have sufficient resources for follow up with enterprises and the low resulting response rates meant that the survey data could not be used as extensively as planned. The RBV and the VNSO need to improve coordination and cooperation in business enterprise surveys through, for example, shared use of survey data at the unit record level for use in the compilation of other economic statistics such as national accounts to avoid duplication of surveys and reduce respondent burden.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Improve access to timely BoP statistics	RBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce separate quarterly BoP release and statistics accessible via the Internet within 3 months of the end of the reference quarter 	1	2014 →
	RBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.rbv.gov.vu to include BoP release schedule 	1	2014 →
	RBV, VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meta data and quality assessment available for BoP 	2	2015
	RBV, VNSO, DOTI, VIPA, FSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with users about BoP data and analysis requirements including estimates and projections as appropriate and secure TA to produce this information 	2	2015
	RBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educate users that the BoP is an accounting record of all monetary transactions between a country and the rest of the world – the difference between BoP and GDP 	1	2014
Capacity building in BoP	RBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing training and capacity building program implemented for RBV staff compiling BoP 	1	2014 →
	RBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to improve data coverage at the sub-national level 	1	2014 →
Reduce surveys of business enterprises and respondent burden	VNSO, RBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO review unit record survey data from RBV for use in national accounts as well as updating business register 	2	2015
	VNSO, RBV, DOTI, VIPA, FSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO and RBV to develop an integrated and coordinated system of business enterprise surveys 	2	2016

4.1.5 Monetary and banking

81. Monetary and banking statistics compiled by the RBV consist of a comprehensive set of stock and flow data on the financial and non-financial assets and liabilities of Vanuatu's financial sector. These are compiled and published in monthly and quarterly publications. Since 2006 data is being sent to the IMF on a monthly and quarterly basis via the Integrated Correspondent System. Statistics are compiled according to the Monetary and Financial Statistics Manual Fifth Edition (MFSM5). To strengthen the assessment of Vanuatu's financial sector stability there is a need to extend the coverage to insurance companies and other microfinance institutions which have deposits valued at VT 10 million or above as stated in the Financial Institutions Act. The MFSM5 recommends recording transactions on an accrual, rather than cash basis. Hence the recording should match with the change in ownership of asset rather than with the time of payment.

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82. There is no published methodology for monetary and banking statistics; however there is a Desk Manual on Monetary Statistics used as an internal guide for the compilation of Vanuatu's Monetary Statistics with particular focus on new compilers.

83. The work program for monetary and banking assistance is based around compliance with international standards. With PFTAC and IMF assistance recent improvements include revisions to the definition of reserve money, use of standardised report forms, development of a monetary statistics database system for users to access historical and current data, including insurance companies. In the short term improvements are planned to provide access to more detailed stock and flow data for financial institutions, and the RBV is working to mobilise technical assistance to expand coverage to other financial corporations and have a separate statistical report for other financial institutions.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Compliance with MFSM5	RBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MFSM5 compliance activities as per PFTAC/IMF recommendations 	1	2014 →
Improve access to monetary and banking statistics	RBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve range of statistical outputs, disaggregated statistics, time series 	2	2015 →
	RBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand coverage to include other financial corporations 	2	2015 →
	RBV, VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meta data and quality assessment available for monetary and banking statistics 	2	2015

4.1.6 Industry and manufacturing

84. The Industry sector, including manufacturing, in Vanuatu is very small. In 2012 the Department of Industry (DoI) piloted a UNDP funded survey covering several areas including firm characteristics, access to finance, annual sales, costs of inputs (including labour), cost of energy, cost of transportation, shipping and communication, workforce composition, licensing, land and permits, taxation, business-government relations, innovation and technology. There is information available from the Department of Geology, Mines and Rural Water Resources (DoGMarWR) on quarrying activity through licences issued, although a fire in 2007 destroyed all historical records.

85. There is a clear need for VNSO to work closely with DoI to develop a comprehensive framework for industry and manufacturing statistics. This could be done through establishing a quarterly integrated enterprise survey program managed by VNSO through a centralised business register, incorporating different survey modules over the course of the year based around cost structure and components, as well as business environment topics including access to finance, outlook and confidence, corruption, infrastructure, crime, competition, administration and government processes and regulations, performance measurements and so on. VNSO and DoI will require additional human, technical resources and capacity building.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Improve access to industry and manufacturing statistics	VNSO, DoI, DoL, VCCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish Industry and Manufacturing statistics working group including stakeholders from government and private sector 	2	2015
	VNSO, DoI, DoL, VCCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop integrated business enterprise survey framework using VNSO business register 	2	2016
	VNSO, DoI, DoL, VCCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise resources for data collection, rolling out the survey in all provinces 	2	2016 →
	VNSO, DoI, DoL, VCCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry and manufacturing statistics available at province level on an annual basis 	3	2017 →

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4.1.7 Investment and construction

86. The RBV compiles statistics on foreign direct investment for the BoP based on resident foreign enterprises which have 10% or more ownership of a registered company, the geographic coverage of which has recently expanded. The total amount of investment in Vanuatu is unknown as this excludes investments made locally, for which the RBV and the VNSO derive estimates from turnover tax returns and the VNSO is reviewing international merchandise trade imports data for its use in deriving estimates for local investment with PFTAC technical assistance.

87. Legal changes which increased the turnover thresholds for compulsory business registration and associated value added tax payments have affected the usefulness of administrative data from Department of Customs and Inland Revenue (DoCaIR). This significantly reduced the number of businesses covered by the DoCaIR administrative data, after considerable support from VNSO to introduce ISIC coding. It is planned to link DoCaIR statistics to the VNSO business register using the business identification number.

88. There is limited information available on construction, with VNSO assisting provinces to develop databases for building permits. VNSO maintains statistics on imported construction materials for use in national accounts compilation; as the only current source of statistics of the value of large scale donor funded construction and infrastructure projects. There is no statistical information available on the earnings of construction sector workers and the workers under concessionary labour and migration agreements for donor funded projects.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Improve investment statistics	RBV , VNSO, VIPA, DoLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish investment statistics working group including stakeholders from government and private sector 	1	2014
	RBV , VNSO, VIPA, DoLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include investment statistics in the business enterprise survey to expand coverage of RBV investment statistics 	2	2015→
	VNSO , RBV, VIPA, DoLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include module on domestic investment in the quarterly business enterprise survey 	3	2016 →
Develop series of reliable and timely construction statistics	VNSO , DoLA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop common platform for building construction permits database and roll out in all provinces 	2	2015 →
	VNSO , RBV, PMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO, RBV and PMO (Aid Management and Coordination Unit) develop survey framework for donor funded construction activities and infrastructure projects 	2	2016 →

4.1.8 Utilities and infrastructure

89. Energy production statistics are available from the two private sector providers, but there is no information about 'off the grid' household production and provincial government based distribution systems. Energy statistical information needs are also discussed in section 4.2.3. Water consumption statistics are available for the urban areas from utilities providers, but there is no information about household water catchments or provincial based systems. Telecommunication statistics are released by the Telecommunications Regulatory Authority.

90. The Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities (MIPU) administers transport and urban water supply, while the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) implements energy and rural water supply policies and activities.

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91. MIPU is coordinating several major infrastructure projects related to urban development, roads, wharfs and airport expansion. Donor funding requirements have produced a wide range of statistics for monitoring and evaluation but these are not widely disseminated or accessible.

92. Marine transport statistics include ship calls and import and export volumes provided by the Department of Ports and Marine while aviation sector statistics are produced by MIPU (airstrip maintenance), Air Vanuatu (flights and passengers) and the Civil Aviation Authority of Vanuatu (flight safety and aviation security, landing and departure fees).

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Improve utilities and infrastructure statistics	VNSO, MIPU , PMO, VCCI, URA	• Establish utilities and infrastructure statistics working group including stakeholders from government, donors and private sector	2	2015
	VNSO, MIPU , PMO, VCCI, URA	• Develop core set of utilities and infrastructure statistics to meet sector policy M&E frameworks	2	2016
	VNSO , MIPU, PMO, VCCI, URA	• Utilities and infrastructure statistics updated and released annually	3	2017 →

4.1.9 Domestic trade

93. Statistics on the relatively small domestic trade sector are limited to cargo movements and those available from the Agriculture Census and Household Income and Expenditure Survey. There is considerable demand from users for statistics on domestic trade, especially in agricultural, fisheries and forestry commodities for both value and quantity; although the latter would be very expensive to collect based on past attempts to use standard units and weights. It would be more practical to have a regular survey programme of collecting information about smallholder production, trade and associated earnings. Domestic trade is also discussed under Tourism in section 4.1.12 and in 4.2.3.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Improve domestic trade statistics	VNSO, DOI, DoT , DOLA, RBV, VCCI	• Establish domestic trade statistics working group including stakeholders from government, donors and private sector	2	2015
	VNSO, DOI, DoT , DOLA, RBV, VCCI	• Develop core set of domestic trade statistics, including to meet sector policy M&E frameworks	2	2016
	VNSO , DOI, DoT, DOLA, RBV, VCCI	• Domestic trade statistics updated through business register surveys and released annually	2	2016 →

4.1.10 External trade

94. The Department of Customs and Inland Revenue (DoCaIR) provide the VNSO with access to the ASYCUDA customs management system for international merchandise trade statistics. The VNSO and DoCaIR are working with technical assistance from SPC and other partners to improve the timeliness, quality and coverage of external trade statistics.

95. Trade price and volume indexes are not released by the VNSO; with users wanting information about specific sectors such as construction materials, fuel, and food items. The Department of Trade (DoT) monitoring and evaluation framework requires trade statistics disaggregated by the type of trade agreement applied, for Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) countries and for specific items included in trade agreements. This information is currently not released on a regular basis by the VNSO and possibly the DoT should work directly with DoCaIR for a data access agreement to use DoCaIR for its own analysis.

^a Agency responsible for completing action is in bold highlight. ^b Priority 1 starts before end of 2014, 2 is between 2015 and 2016 and 3 is between 2017 and 2020. → signifies an ongoing activity.

96. Vanuatu does not compile international trade in services statistics, which are sourced from the BoP, national accounts and other business enterprise activity surveys, notably for the tourism sector. The VNSO will require technical assistance, capacity building and resources to collect and compile the statistics on an annual basis as per the international standard (Manual on Statistics of International Trade in Services (MSITS)).

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Improve external trade statistics	VNSO , DCIR, DoT, DOI, RBV, VCCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish external trade statistics working group including stakeholders from government, donors and private sector to define core set of trade statistics 	1	2014
	VNSO , DCIR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO and DCIR continue activities to improve timeliness, quality and coverage of external trade statistics, including price and volume indexes 	1	2014 →
	VNSO , DOI, DoT, DOI, RBV, VCCI, Dept of Tourism, FSC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO establish trade in services technical working group to define data needs and mobilise resources for develop work plan for annual statistics on trade in services 	2	2015
	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual release of trade in services statistics 	3	2018 →

4.1.11 Labour force and employment

97. There is no systematic statistical reporting of employment and unemployment, with statistics available from the 10-yearly census and other household surveys. Data on formal sector employment is sourced from the Vanuatu National Provident Fund (VNSO). The VNSO has a programme to expand its geographic coverage and compliance. There is no systematic measurement of informal sector employment. The establishment of the business register and associated survey programme should improve official statistics on employment, earnings and demand for labour, while a household labour force type survey is required for more detailed information about human resources capacity, skills, employment, under-employment, unemployment and associated labour force statistics. Initial work on a national human resources strategy recommended that the VNSO compile and publish labour market statistics available from existing sources, tracer studies are incorporated into the ongoing activities of post-secondary education and training institutions and for the establishment of an employment office providing services to both employers and job seekers.

98. VNSO has begun compiling a government wage index as part of improvements to the national accounts, with VNSO coverage considered insufficient to expand to the private sector and for specific occupations and sectors of economic activity. The quality of the government wage index will be reviewed in 2014 with the possibility of publishing the information. Information on the number of seasonal workers under labour agreements is available from the Department of Labour (DoL) but there is no information about their earnings and savings.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Improve labour force and employment statistics	DoL , VNSO, VNSO, VCCI, DoL, DoT, DoL, VIPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish employment and labour statistics working group including stakeholders from government, donors and private sector to define core set of labour statistics 	2	2015
	VNSO , DoL, VNSO, DoFT,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Release statistics on employed persons from business surveys and business register, as well as existing data sources from DoL, VNSO registers 	2	2016 →
	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop household survey module for employment, under employment, skills, 	2	2015

^a Agency responsible for completing action is in bold highlight. ^b Priority 1 starts before end of 2014, 2 is between 2015 and 2016 and 3 is between 2017 and 2020. → signifies an ongoing activity.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
		remuneration, work history and so on		
	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct Household Labour Force Survey (or module) on a regular basis for timely statistics on employment, unemployment, under-employment, earnings, occupations and so on 	2	2016

4.1.12 Tourism

99. The VNSO releases international migration statistics which includes visitor arrivals by air and sea on a monthly basis. Stakeholders want statistics about domestic tourism including islands visited, length of stay, type of accommodation and services used and do on. Air Vanuatu are able to provide statistics on the number of passengers and destination, but do not have a system in place to release the information to users. VNSO is working with the Department of Tourism and the Department of Immigration (DoIm) to include a question on places visited on the international departure card which would provide some information. The VNSO is working with the DoI to develop a shared database for all international arrivals and departures, based around digital scanning of arrival and departure cards. The DoIm currently does not have a computerised register of arrival and departure card information. This will decrease the data entry burden on VNSO and enable staff to increase the range of statistics available and include more analysis in releases, including seasonal adjustments.

100. Domestic trade in services – tourism – is needed for monitoring and evaluating the tourism sector strategy and the DoT want estimates of tourism related earnings on a monthly basis. The current data source is the BoP which does not include all tourism sector related earnings, for which a regular survey program is required. The VNSO is investigating the data needs for a tourism satellite account in the national accounts, but will need resources and capacity building to do so.

101. VNSO abandoned its accommodation occupancy rate sample survey in 2007 because of non-response by hoteliers who perceived that the information they were providing was commercially sensitive and did not believe the VNSO would maintain confidentiality. The Department of Tourism is working with the Vanuatu Hotels and Resorts Association and the Vanuatu Tourism Office to re-introduce an occupancy survey with assistance from the VNSO.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Improve access to timely tourism statistics	VNSO, DoIm, DCIR, Biosecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO and DoIm develop shared database for all arrival and departure cards 	1	2014
	VNSO, DoIm, Dept of Tourism, DCIR, Biosecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DoIm to introduce arrival and departure forms suitable for digital scanning and including some information about domestic tourism 	1	2014
	VNSO, Dept of Tourism, RBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop tourism expenditure survey programme for reliable and timely estimates of the contribution of tourism to the economy 	2	2015
	VNSO, Dept of Tourism, RBV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism exit/expenditure survey conducted on a continuous basis 	2	2015 →
	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review data, training and resource needs to produce tourism satellite accounts (GDP) 	3	2017-20
Improve access to accommodation occupancy rates and statistics	Dept of Tourism, VNSO,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Tourism to work with stakeholders to re-introduce occupancy rate survey with technical assistance from VNSO 	1	2014

^a Agency responsible for completing action is in bold highlight. ^b Priority 1 starts before end of 2014, 2 is between 2015 and 2016 and 3 is between 2017 and 2020. → signifies an ongoing activity.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
	Tourism Assns			
	Dept of Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism accommodation occupancy rate survey conducted on a continuous basis 	2	2015 →

4.1.13 Poverty and living conditions

102. The VNSO developed food and basic needs poverty lines, and associated incidence of poverty, with technical assistance provided by UNDP using the Household Income and Expenditure Survey data of 2006 and 2010. In 2013 the World Bank provided training and technical assistance for the use of small area estimation techniques to provide more detailed information on poverty and living conditions using the HIES 2010 and the 2009 Census, released in the Vanuatu Socio-Economic Atlas in 2014. Poverty lines and analysis using data from the 2012-13 Hybrid Survey data will be released by VNSO and SPC in late 2014⁶. Vanuatu does not have a national poverty reduction strategy and there is no agency with the specific mandate to improve livelihoods and wellbeing, with increasing per capita income an objective in the national development strategy.

103. There is some demand from researchers for more complementary information on exclusion, lived experiences, life aspirations and expectations, deprivation and insecurity used to identify the population living in poverty or at risk to poverty, such as evidence of sources of livelihoods, gender based violence, malnutrition, endemic diseases, educational achievement, and lack of access to basic services. VNSO will review the requirements for poverty, wellbeing and living conditions statistics based on the revised national development strategy in late 2014.

104. The VNSO is attempting to secure funds conduct HIES surveys on a regular five-yearly basis, but does not have the technical capacity or resources to derive poverty lines and associated indicators and analysis. Additional surveys will be required to collect statistics on the broader dimensions of wellbeing. The VNSO and the Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs completed the pilot study on wellbeing for Melanesia in 2010, with wellbeing defined according to resource access, cultural practice and community vitality. The project, including a coordinator, was funded by the Christensen Fund. VNSO has committed resources to increasing access to statistical information and analysis about wellbeing and associated social and economic statistics with the establishment of a data analyst position in late 2013.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Improve access to timely statistics about wellbeing, poverty and living conditions	VNSO, PMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO and PMO (DSPPAC) to develop statistical sources and indicators based on national development strategy 	1	2014
	VNSO, PMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO, PMO (Aid Management and Coordination Unit) to secure funding for five-yearly HIES 	1	2014
	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIES or similar survey conducted on a 5 yearly basis as data source for wellbeing, poverty and living conditions statistics 	2	2015 →
	VNSO, PMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO and PMO (DSPPAC) to source training and technical assistance to increase capacity for analysis of wellbeing, poverty and living conditions 	2	2015
	VNSO, PMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO and PMO (DSPPAC) to develop dissemination and communication strategy for wellbeing, poverty and living conditions statistics 	2	2016

⁶ Essentially a Living Standards Measurement Survey adapted for stakeholder needs in Vanuatu.

^a Agency responsible for completing action is in bold highlight. ^b Priority 1 starts before end of 2014, 2 is between 2015 and 2016 and 3 is between 2017 and 2020. → signifies an ongoing activity.

4.1.14 Overseas development assistance (ODA)

105. Overseas development assistance statistics cover donor cash contributions captured in the government Financial Management Information System (FMIS) and monies deposited at the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu (RBV) but exclude cash (and any other) in-kind and transfer payments managed outside of FMIS such as funds managed by national and international NGOs or disbursed directly from donors. All government agencies are required to submit new project proposals for donor funding (whether or not the funds are secured or not) to the Aid Management and Coordination Unit in the PMO before the financial account is created in FMIS. This system doesn't monitor all ODA funded activities, notably those in the NGO sector and projects directly funded and managed by the donors themselves.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Improve coverage of ODA statistics to include aid in-kind and funds disbursed outside FMIS	VNSO , RBV, Dept of Treasury, PMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO, RBV, PMO (Aid Management and Coordination Unit) to develop statistical sources for ODA 	2	2015 →

4.2 Primary sector statistics

4.2.1 Environment

106. Vanuatu's most recent National Assessment Report for the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI) contains no statistical information about the environment. There is considerable demand from stakeholders for information about the environment, and a satellite national account for the environment, but Vanuatu lacks the technical equipment and capacity for sustainable statistical data collection and analysis across the country.

107. The lead agency for environment statistics is the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DoEPaC); currently in the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, moving to the governance of the Ministry of Climate Change (created in 2013) when the legislative framework is in place. The DoEPaC has distributed the draft National Environment Management Strategy (NEMS), which acknowledges the need for statistics for monitoring and evaluation with the need for systematic coordination of the collection of environmental data for pre-defined indicators (including those indicators collected through government and non-government stakeholders); although the indicators are not included in the draft policy. In its legislative framework the DoEPaC is required to produce a 'State of the Environment' report with detailed statistical information on a ten-yearly basis.

108. The VNSO is using the environmental and related socio-economic indicators recommended by the UNSD as the basis for discussion about its environment statistics. It is envisaged that the final environment policy along with the national sustainable development strategy, to be released in late 2014, will incorporate a much stronger emphasis on statistical indicators. Areas included in the VNSO framework include biodiversity, extractive industries, green growth, chemical use, water resources, conservation areas, waste management, emissions, and erosion.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Improve access to environment statistics	VNSO , DoEPaC , PMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO, DoEPaC and PMO (DSPPAC) to develop statistical indicators 	1	2014
	VNSO , DoEPaC, PMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After finalising indicators define, data sources, dissemination strategies for environment statistics and detailed costing 	2	2015-16

^a Agency responsible for completing action is in bold highlight. ^b Priority 1 starts before end of 2014, 2 is between 2015 and 2016 and 3 is between 2017 and 2020. → signifies an ongoing activity.

4.2.2 Climate, climate change and disaster risk reduction

109. Climate statistics relating to temperature, rainfall, cyclones, sea level and predictions are released by the Vanuatu Meteorology and Geo-hazard Department on a timely basis through email distribution lists and the internet⁷.

110. The management and oversight of the implementation of national policies for climate change and disaster risk reduction is the mandate of The Vanuatu National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (NAB)⁸; which is why these two topics are included with climate. The NAB is supported by a full-time Secretariat housed under the Ministry of Climate Change. The policy focus is for mainstreaming climate change mitigation within sector policies as well as an overarching National Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy, currently being finalised.

111. Impacts of climate change include water shortages, coastal inundation and erosion of coastlines, relocation of government infrastructure, community relocation, and decreased production of food crops which illustrates the importance of mainstreaming for policy interventions and statistical indicators. VNSO provided training and technical assistance for a UNDP funded pilot survey which included sections relating to climate change resilience, traditional knowledge and disaster preparedness. This could form the basis of a statistical series for climate change and disaster risk reduction after review against the national policy.

112. Statistical data is used by the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) in its work relating to preparedness, response and reconstruction for emergencies at the community level. The NDMO has used the Census data to assess populations at risk and in providing materials and food during emergencies in addition to its own statistical information about risk assessments; however it does not have all the information it requires in a centralised, easily accessible platform.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Improve access to climate change and disaster risk reduction statistics	NDMO , VMDG, VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO VMDG, and NDMO to develop statistical indicators, sources, dissemination strategies and detailed costing for National Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Policy 	1	2014
Improve and strengthen data collection for disaster response and recovery	VNSO , NDMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO and NDMO to develop statistical indicators 	1	2014
	VNSO , NDMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO and NDMO establish appropriate ongoing data collection, management and access systems for disaster preparedness, response and recovery 	2	2015 →

4.2.3 Energy

113. The Department of Energy (DoE) in the Ministry of Climate Change is responsible for the National Energy Road Map, which contains requirements for increased staffing and funding for its full implementation. The Road Map contains targets for monitoring and evaluation; however statistical data collection systems are not in place for many of the targets.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Improve access to energy statistics	DoE , VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO and DoE to develop statistical indicators for the National Energy Road Map 	1	2014

⁷ <http://www.meteo.gov.vu/VMSLinks/Publications/tabid/179/Default.aspx>

⁸ <http://www.nab.vu/>

^a Agency responsible for completing action is in bold highlight. ^b Priority 1 starts before end of 2014, 2 is between 2015 and 2016 and 3 is between 2017 and 2020. → signifies an ongoing activity.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
	VNSO, DoE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO and DoE to develop data sources and reporting systems for the National Energy Road Map, including household survey module for renewable energy 	2	2015-17
	VNSO, DoE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistics collected and compiled on a regular basis for monitoring National Energy Road Map 	3	2018 →

4.2.4 Agriculture, forestry, livestock, fisheries and biosecurity

114. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries, and Bio-Security (MALFFB) collect a wide range of statistical information, largely related to compliance and activities, such as:

- in-shore fishery activities,
- licenced fishing vessels catch and effort,
- tree logs extracted,
- biosecurity inspections,
- livestock, seedling and plant distribution,
- training workshop activities and participants, and
- products sold and value at supported markets (crops, livestock, fish etc)

115. In general, where compliance with legislation is required statistical information is available, but generally not in a format accessible to users. The 2007 Census of Agriculture is considered to be the most reliable source of horticulture, cropping and livestock statistics while there are concerns about the coverage of the size of the fishery and catch and effort due to the lack of observers and port samplers. Since 2010 FAO and SPC introduced a series of questions on agricultural activity in household surveys, notably the Census, with the aim of providing more timely agricultural statistics and decreasing the costs of an Agriculture Census. The Population Census is used as the basis of the sample frame for the follow up more detailed agricultural activity modules, with the caveat that this method depends on close timing between the Population Census and the Agriculture Census.

116. Donor partners are supporting fisheries statistics and the establishment of a FAO country officer will support statistical production. VNSO was not able to complete a rural smallholder survey in 2013 because it could not mobilise 'top up' funding for the EU contribution.

117. There is a strong need for agriculture sector statistics; for the MALFFB monitoring and evaluation and for the VNSO to improve the accuracy of national accounts and develop quarterly estimates. MALFFB need human resources, capacity building and technical support to build statistical monitoring and evaluation systems. VNSO currently does not have the staffing level to outpost a statistician to MALFFB; and ideally this would be an agricultural economist or agricultural statistician. The priority is to ensure that the data currently being collected is disseminated in a useful format while other statistical systems are developed.

118. All stakeholders need to develop the systems for statistics for monitoring agriculture with the policy framework including the Overarching Productive Sector Policy (OPSP), Trade Policy Framework, the National Livestock Framework, National Forest Policy, the fisheries policy currently being finalised, and the more general MALFFB Corporate Plan. VNSO recognises the need for better coverage of statistics in the agricultural sector with its restructuring proposal to establish an agricultural statistics unit in Luganville, Sanma province, near the main areas of agricultural activity in the central islands groups, with the southern Tafea province entering data into systems maintained by the VNSO Sanma office. In addition VNSO needs budgetary support

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and capacity building for its province officers to collect the required production and value information on a regular basis.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Increase access to agriculture, forestry, livestock, fisheries and biosecurity statistics	MALFFB , VNSO, PMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review currently collected statistics on agriculture, forestry, livestock, fisheries and biosecurity and develop and disseminate statistics for monitoring agriculture sector activities 	1	2014
Improve capacity to collect and compile agriculture statistics	VNSO , MALFFB , DoTCI, PMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO, MALFFB, PMO (DSSPAC, M&E Unit) and DoTCI develop statistical indicators, sources, dissemination strategies for agricultural sector strategies and policies 	2	2015
	VNSO , MALFFB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO and MALFFB to mobilise resources to conduct 10 yearly Census of Agriculture complemented by more frequent rural smallholder surveys 	3	2016 →
	VNSO , MALFFB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural smallholder survey completed in 2016 and funds secured to conduct full Census of Agriculture in 2020 	2	2016-20
	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO to establish and staff an agricultural statistics unit in Luganville, Sanma 	3	2017 →
	VNSO , MALFFB , AgDevB, DoTCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO to work with stakeholders to assist with the collection and compilation of agricultural statistics 	3	2017 →
	VNSO , MALFFB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO disseminating statistics on agriculture, forestry, livestock, fisheries and bio-security statistics in an annual statistical report with data from statistical surveys and administrative systems from MALFFB 	3	2020 →

4.3 Social sector statistics

4.3.1 Population, households and demographic

119. The VNSO conducts the Census of Population and Housing on a 10 yearly basis, with the most recent census in 2009. The absence of robust and comprehensive vital statistics registration systems for births and deaths means that the Census is used to derive all official population and demographic statistics, including population growth rates, birth rates and death rates. The number of maternal deaths is currently not available from the health information system and the maternal mortality rate will be derived from the 2013 Demographic and Health Survey, along with the contraceptive use and family planning similar to the MICS 2007 indicators.

120. UNICEF estimates that 26% of births are registered, with death reporting even lower. Cause of death is not recorded; registration of deaths is not a legal requirement. The VNSO and other stakeholders are working to improve civil registration and vital statistics through the stakeholder group in the Vanuatu Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Taskforce (VCRaVST). This has just completed the WHO comprehensive assessment review of the CRVS system with task force members being identified in each province to develop local level strategies. Additional funds will be required for the implementation phase of the strategies, both at national and provincial level.

^a Agency responsible for completing action is in bold highlight. ^b Priority 1 starts before end of 2014, 2 is between 2015 and 2016 and 3 is between 2017 and 2020. → signifies an ongoing activity.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Increase access to timely and reliable population estimates	VCRaVST, VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VCRaVST to continue to implement program to improve vital statistics and mobilise resources for implementation phase 	1	2014 →
	VCRaVST, VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO to continue consulting users about statistical data needs for sub-national population estimates 	1	2014
	VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO to continue to conduct the Census of Population and Housing on a 10 yearly basis, with preparations beginning in 2015 for the 2019 Census 	2	2015-20
Increase access to timely and reliable demographic indicators	VNSO, MoH, PMO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review household survey program and requirement for demographic indicators with PMO (DSPPAC) 	2	2015-16
	MoH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoH to continue program to improve access to health facility data to use for demographic indicators 	1	2014-15
	MoH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoH disseminating vital statistics in a quarterly statistical report with data from administrative systems from MoH 	2	2016→

4.3.2 Education, numeracy and literacy

121. The Ministry of Education (MoE) conducts an annual school survey to provide the indicators required for monitoring the Vanuatu Education Sector Strategy and its workplan. This is used in the annual Education Statistics Digest, which includes education statistics from other administrative systems on examinations, post-secondary education and training, scholarship recipients and education financing. The MoE uses VNSO population projections to estimate enrolment, intake and gender parity rates. The MoE is implementing a program to expand the coverage of education statistics and improve the quality and timeliness of statistics which will involve changes to the legislative framework.

122. Vanuatu does not have national statistics on numeracy and literacy, other than respondent reported literacy levels from the Census. The MoE will be implementing the Vanuatu National Assessment and Reporting Policy to provide the basis for all assessments in the formal school education system.

123. Stakeholders want statistical information to assess the education and training levels of people in relation to the labour market nationally and regionally; possibly starting with administrative data on all accredited TVET training providers, courses, enrolments, graduates and so on. This would be the mandate of the national regulatory body, the Vanuatu Qualifications Authority (VQA); which currently has administrative data on accredited TVET providers and courses. The VNSO has introduced a “TVET” module into its household surveys which could be expanded to include more information about qualifications obtained, training courses attended and so on.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Increase access to timely and reliable education sector statistics	MoE, VQA, VNSO, DoT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoE to continue to implement program to improve range and coverage of education statistics from ECCE to post-secondary and tertiary 	1	2014 →
	VNSO, MoE, PMO, VAQ, DoT, VCCI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> VNSO, to develop education and training survey module based on user statistical data needs consultations jointly with PMO (DSPPAC), noting the needs for employment and under-employment 	2	2015 →

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4.3.3 Health

124. The Ministry of Health (MoH) recently reviewed the statistical data from health facilities included in its health information system and streamlined its database system for health facility reporting. This data is used alongside the statistics from hospital outpatient, admission and discharge systems. Departments within the ministry maintain separate databases for surveillance, treatment as well as material distribution and so on. Staff turnover and capacity in the planning and statistics unit has adversely affected the availability of health statistics.

125. In the absence of timely and reliable data from health administrative systems, statistical indicators are derived from household surveys; which are also required to obtain prevalence indicators for the population and sub-groups. Typically these are sample surveys with VNSO providing household listings. Other statistics are sourced from national campaigns such as measles immunisation rates for children. Recent health related household surveys include the Demographic and Health Survey in 2013, STEPS survey in 2011 for NCD disease risk factors in the population, the 2011 Malaria Prevalence Survey, the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in 2007, and the Second Generation Surveillance Survey in 2008.

126. The MoH is participating in a regional initiative with training and technical assistance to improve access medical research and to make more use of administrative data. The first research paper, to be presented in late 2014, is based on a statistical analysis of term neonatal deaths.

127. MoH need human resources, capacity building and technical support to build centralised statistical reporting and analysis systems. VNSO currently does not have the staffing level to outpost a statistician to MoH; and ideally this would be an epidemiologist or a health statistician. The priority is to ensure that the data currently being collected is disseminated in a useful format while statistical systems are reviewed and centralised.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Increase access to timely and reliable health statistics	MoH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoH to continue to implement program to improve statistics collected from all health facilities 	1	2014-15
	MoH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoH review and centralise internal database systems, using common platforms where practical 	1	2014-16
	MoH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoH disseminating health statistics in an annual statistical report with data from administrative systems from MoH 	2	2015

4.3.4 Gender

128. In 2014 the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) will finalise the national gender equality policy. The VNSO and the DoWA are working on a gender statistics profile to complement the policy; as yet there is no monitoring and evaluation framework.

129. In 2009 the Vanuatu Women's Centre (VWC) conducted a household survey into Women's Lives and Family Relationships, the first national survey on violence against women and attitudes towards women's human rights. Gender based violence was included in the 2013 Demographic and Health Survey. The National Police Force (NPF) Family Protection Unit (FPU) provide statistics on request regarding cases investigated involving violence and other criminal acts against women and children in addition to a monthly report submitted to management.

^a Agency responsible for completing action is in bold highlight. ^b Priority 1 starts before end of 2014, 2 is between 2015 and 2016 and 3 is between 2017 and 2020. → signifies an ongoing activity.

130. There are no statistics available for the analysis of gender equality in terms of economic empowerment; women's access to, and uptake of, basic services; access to and control over resources; there has been little demand and stakeholders have limited ability to analyse and interpret gender statistics.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Increase access to timely and reliable gender statistics	DoWA , VNSO, PMO, NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DoWA develop statistics framework for monitoring and evaluation of national gender policy with assistance from VNSO and PMO (DSPPAC) and in consultation with NGO partners 	1	2014
	VNSO , DoWA, PMO, MFAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DoWA, VNSO, PMO (DSPPAC) and MFAT develop statistics framework for human rights treaty reporting for CEDAW 	2	2015-16

4.3.5 Children and youth

131. In 2012 the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Training (MYST) launched the Youth Development Policy (2012-2022) with three key areas for policy on youth that include pathways (education and entrepreneurial development); personal development (health, sports, arts and culture); and public participation (civic training and self-help and community development). The policy has a supporting Strategic Plan of Actions (2012 to 2015) with its implementation supported by the Vanuatu National Youth Council (VNYC). The 2009 Census data was used as the basis of the Youth Monograph. The Children's Desk in the Corporate Services Unit of the Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MJCS) is responsible for compliance with the Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC) and implementing the national child policy, with NGOs providing valuable support as implementing partners.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Increase access to timely and reliable youth statistics	MJCS , MYST, VNSO, NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MJCS develop statistics framework for monitoring and evaluation of national youth policy and strategic plan of actions with assistance from VNSO and PMO (DSPPAC) and in consultation with NGO partners 	1	2014
Increase access to timely and reliable child statistics	VNSO , MJCS,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MJCS and VNSO develop statistics framework for monitoring and evaluation of national child policy 	2	2015
	VNSO , MJCS, PMO, MFAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MJCS, VNSO, PMO (DSPPAC) and MFAT develop statistics framework for human rights treaty reporting including the common core document and specific indicators for CRC 	2	2015

4.3.6 Disability

132. The 2009 Census included the Pacific region standard question to assess the prevalence of disability and in 2014 a pilot disability survey was carried out, with a full national survey planned for 2015 when resources are mobilised. The questionnaire was designed to provide indicators for monitoring the national disability framework and should be revised in light of the international standard released in 2014 by WHO. The Disability Desk in the MJCS is responsible for compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and implementing the national disability policy with oversight from a national committee, with NGOs providing valuable support as implementing partners.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Increase access to timely and reliable disability statistics	MJCS , VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review pilot disability survey against WHO standard and make necessary adjustments, mobilise funds for national survey 	1	2014

^a Agency responsible for completing action is in bold highlight. ^b Priority 1 starts before end of 2014, 2 is between 2015 and 2016 and 3 is between 2017 and 2020. → signifies an ongoing activity.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
	MJCS , VNSO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability survey conducted and results disseminated 	2	2015-16
	VNSO , MJCS, NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MJCS and VNSO develop statistics framework for monitoring and evaluation of national disability policy in consultation with NGO partners 	2	2015-16
	VNSO , MJCS, PMO, MFAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MJCS, VNSO, PMO (DSPPAC) and MFAT develop statistics framework for human rights treaty reporting for CRPD 	2	2015-16

4.3.7 Crime and justice

133. There is no statistical system for crime and justice statistical reporting in Vanuatu, with the sector consisting of the Vanuatu Police Force, the Ministry of Justice and Community Services (MJCS), the Judicial Services Commission, State Law Office, Public Solicitor and Public Prosecutor, Correctional Services and traditional chiefs. Each agency produce statistics but these are not disseminated and collection, compilation and reporting systems range from databases to manual compilation from registers. Law and justice sector reform began in 2010, with the Stremem Rod Blong Jastis (Clear Path to Justice) program resulting in improved criminal statistics from the Police, the Public Prosecutor and Supreme Court cases; with the sector-wide assessment of institutional and individual capacity forming the basis of development for the sector.

Data development need	Agencies ^a	Data development actions	Priority ^b	Timing
Increase access to timely and reliable crime and justice statistics	MJCS , VNSO, VPF, VCS, NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MJCS to continue to implement program to improve statistics collected across the law and justice sector including relevant NGOs 	1	2014 →
	MJCS , VNSO, VPF, VCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MJCS develop coordination system for centralised access to regular statistical data on crime and justice 	2	2015
	MJCS , VNSO , VPF, VCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime and justice statistics compiled and analysis disseminated annually 	2	2016 →

5 Financing

5.1 Budget

134. The budgetary need for the first three years of implementation, 2014-16 is approximately Vt 302 million; 145 million from the government budget and Vt 157 million of donor assistance, largely for technical assistance, data collections and surveys. The significant budget items are for a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 2015, a disability survey in 2015; a Household Labour Force Survey in 2016; the creation of a business register and quarterly business enterprise surveys from with development work beginning in 2014; and a rural smallholder agriculture survey in 2016.

135. The following assumptions were made for the data collection and survey cost estimates: the approximate cost for a 10% sample household survey requiring no technical equipment or supplies is Vt 34 million, using budgets for recent household surveys conducted by VNSO. Of the Vt 34 million capital costs represent approximately 5%. **Annex 2** contains the budget details of the costs of established systems as well as new initiatives included in the VNSDS. The cost of established systems in some agencies has been estimated because detailed budgets were not available.

^a Agency responsible for completing action is in bold highlight. ^b Priority 1 starts before end of 2014, 2 is between 2015 and 2016 and 3 is between 2017 and 2020. → signifies an ongoing activity.

Table 4: Estimated budget costs of VNSDS implementation 2014 – 2016, millions of Vatu

Budget item	Total	Millions of Vatu		
		2014	2015	2016
TOTAL	302.35	38.90	149.85	113.60
Strategic objectives	37.85	9.95	13.60	14.30
Robust institutional environment	4.00	1.00	1.00	2.00
Improved human resources	5.00	0.60	1.50	2.90
Effective partnerships	5.35	1.15	3.00	1.20
Sound data and information management	23.50	7.20	8.10	8.20
Statistical production strategies	264.00	28.95	136.75	99.30
Economic statistics	120.10	13.55	56.95	50.10
Primary sector statistics	41.90	2.40	3.80	35.70
Social sector statistics	102.00	13.00	75.50	13.50

6 Sustainability

6.1 Coordination

136. Institutional arrangements for coordination have improved since the creation of the Statistical Leadership and Coordination section in the VNSO, but still fall short of ensuring overall level required for the production of official statistics. While the Government Statistician has the mandate for the coordination required to achieve the VNSDS production strategies, as per the Statistics Amendment Act of 2013; the VNSO does not have the resources to achieve the level of coordination required.

137. The revision to the Act created the Statistics Advisory Council (SAC), the ultimate body with oversight for the VSS. It will be the mechanism to improve coordination in the VSS by bringing users and producers of statistics together to discuss supply and demand issues. One of the key functions of the SAC will be to finalise the prioritisation of activities and monitor the implementation of the VNSDS across all sectors. The SAC will meet twice a year to discuss the ongoing work program of VSS agencies based on the VNSDS, emerging issues and statistical releases. The Implementation Plan (**Annex 3**) will guide SAC governance activities.

6.2 Mainstreaming statistics with policies

138. Currently sectoral development policies are developed without input from the VNSO for monitoring and evaluation frameworks, partly as a result of the limited coordination within the VSS but mostly because this activity is relatively new for most line ministries. This means that there is no common dataset of core indicators to monitor development, assess impacts or monitor human rights apart from the indicators used to monitor progress towards achieving the priority areas in the Priorities and Action Agenda.

6.3 Development partners

139. Donors and other development partners have long recognised the need for timely and reliable statistics, as evidenced by external funding support for major statistical surveys and ongoing capacity building in the VNSO. The VNSDS will enable donors and development partners to work with VSS stakeholders to deliver on priorities; however it identifies new areas where additional funding is required as the foundations of the strategy. Likewise the Government of Vanuatu will be able to develop a medium term expenditure framework across the VSS, which should ultimately reduce duplication statistical activities and increase the range, quality, timeliness and accessibility of official statistics.

140. The Vanuatu Government has administrative and budgetary procedures to identify funding gaps and mobilise external resources through the New Project Proposal process, and, along with the regular

consultation and review of partnership agreements and programs donors and development partners will be made aware of the priority areas of the VNSDS and support the VSS agencies involved.

6.4 Issues and risks

141. The key issues and risks for the VNSDS to achieve its goals are: (1) the adequacy of the legislative framework of the VSS to enable VNSDS implementation; (2) access to technical expertise; (3) adequacy of staffing levels and technical ability; and (4) adequacy of funding. Related to this, the long-term development of a well-functioning national statistical system in Vanuatu is also highly dependent on political support to ensure the necessary legal, administrative and budgetary framework.

142. More attention is needed for budget analysis of annual work plans and outputs, as well as supervising the timely hand over of statistical deliverables in all agencies. Timeliness and effectiveness will improve with better coordination provided by the SAC; common statistical infrastructure and systems; as well as strengthened management capacity for performance management, project management and risk management. Remuneration levels of statisticians in the VSS should be reviewed and standardised based on job sizing and the development of common job descriptions to reduce current disparities.

Annex 1: VNSDS Contributors

Name	Agency	Area	Sector Task Force
Nigel Malosu	DoF	GFS	Economic
Brian Wabaiat	DoF	GFS	Economic
Joshua Nava	DoF	GFS	Economic
Wensi Wesley Naki	DoTI	Industry	Economic
Andrea	DoTI	Industry	Economic
Donald Pelam	DoTI	Industry	Economic
Alice Sami	DSPPAC	Infrastructure	Economic
Charlie Namaka	DSPPAC	Economic	Economic
Armstrong Masanga	DSPPAC	Development	Economic
Adela Issachar	NTO	Tourism	Economic
Pita Toa	RBV	Ec stats	Economic
Lynette Rangon	RBV	Ec stats	Economic
Cynthia Moli	RBV	Money, Credit	Economic
Fabiano Vinabit	RBV	Money, Credit	Economic
Arold Bill	RBV	GFS	Economic
Peter Robert	RBV	GFS	Economic
Joylin Willie	RBV	Investment, Tourism	Economic
Mark Tamata	RBV	Investment	Economic
Ben Tokal	VNSO	Nat Accts, Ec stats	Economic
Ernest Killion	VNSO	Nat Accts, Ec stats	Economic
Susie Mento	VNSO	Tourism	Economic
Harry Nalau	VNSO	Poverty	Economic
Gwenneth Tari	DARD	Agriculture	Primary
Hannington Tate	DARD	Forestry	Primary
Sylvie Boulekouran	DARD	Biosecurity	Primary
Fransis Quarani	DARD	Biosecurity	Primary
Lonny Bong	DARD	Livestock	Primary
Graham Nimoho	DoF	Fisheries	Primary
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Fabiola Bibi	DoE	Education	Social
Jeffrey Tila Langati	DoH	Health	Social
Annie Shem	DoWA	Gender	Social
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Jonas Arugogona	DSPPAC	Health	Social
John Ezra	DSPPAC	Gender	Social
Johnson Vora	DSPPAC	Education	Social
Andy Calo	VNSO	Social	Social
Jimmy Tamkela	VNSO	Social	Social
Jack Weller	Police	Crime	Social
Ettiene Ravo	Civil Status	CRVS	Social
Jamie Tanguay	MSG	Culture	Social
Sam Kaiapam	DoWA	Disabilty	Social

Annex 2: Estimated budget 2014 - 2016

Budget item	Total	Source		Type		2014	2015	2016
		Government	Donor	Capital	Recurrent			
TOTAL	302.35	144.55	157.8	13.7	288.65	38.9	149.85	113.6
Strategic objectives	37.85	26.35	11.5	2	35.85	9.95	13.6	14.3
<i>Robust institutional environment</i>	4.0	1.0	3.0	1.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	2.0
Regulatory framework & policy environment	4.0	1.0	3.0	1.0	3.0	1.0	1.0	2.0
<i>Improved human resources</i>	5.0	2.0	3.0		5.0	0.6	1.5	2.9
HR, training, capacity building	5.0	2.0	3.0		5.0	0.6	1.5	2.9
<i>Effective partnerships</i>	5.35	2.35	3.0		5.35	1.15	3.0	1.2
Consultation, cooperation & coordination	2.0	0.5	1.5		2.0	0.4	0.8	0.8
Partnerships with media	0.95	0.45	0.5		0.95	0.05	0.7	0.2
Statistical literacy & advocacy	2.4	1.4	1.0		2.4	0.7	1.5	0.2
<i>Sound data and information management</i>	23.5	21.0	2.5	1.0	22.5	7.2	8.1	8.2
Data quality	1.0	0.4	0.6		1.0		0.4	0.6
Data analysis & dissemination	2.3	1.9	0.4		2.3	0.9	0.9	0.5
Data availability & access	17.7	17.7			17.7	5.9	5.9	5.9
ICT and data management	2.0	0.5	1.5	1.0	1.0	0.4	0.8	0.8
Sub-national statistics system	0.5	0.5			0.5		0.1	0.4
Statistical production strategies	264.5	118.2	146.3	11.7	252.8	28.95	136.25	99.3
Economic statistics	120.6	86.6	34	5.3	115.3	13.55	56.95	50.1
National accounts & GDP	17.9	5.4	12.5	1.5	16.4	1.5	9.7	6.7
Prices	1.6	1.6			1.6	1	0.3	0.3
GFS	0.75	0.75			0.75		0.75	
BoP	11.25	11.25			11.25	4.25	3.5	3.5
Monetary & banking	12.5	12.5			12.5	4.1	4.3	4.1
Industry & manufacturing	0.6		0.6	0.2	0.4		0.6	
Investment & construction	0.5	0.5			0.5	0.5		
Utilities & infrastructure	0.2	0.2			0.2		0.1	0.1
Domestic trade	0.4	0.4			0.4		0.2	0.2
External trade	1		1		1		1	
Labour force & employment	35	18	17	1.7	33.3		1	34

Annex 2: Estimated budget 2014 - 2016

Budget item	Total	Source		Type		2014	2015	2016
		Government	Donor	Capital	Recurrent			
Tourism	2.7	1.5	1.2	0.2	2.5	1.7	0.5	0.5
Poverty & living conditions	35.7	34	1.7	1.7	34	0.5	34.5	0.7
ODA	0.5	0.5			0.5		0.5	
Primary sector statistics	41.9	4.3	37.6	1.7	40.2	2.4	3.8	35.7
Environment	0.7		0.7		0.7		0.7	
Climate & disaster risk reduction	0.7		0.7		0.7		0.7	
Energy	0.5		0.5		0.5		0.5	
Agriculture, forestry & fisheries	40	4.3	35.7	1.7	38.3	2.4	1.9	35.7
Social sector statistics	102	27.3	74.7	4.7	97.3	13	75.5	13.5
Population and demographic	12		12		12	4	4	4
Education, numeracy & literacy	9.5	3.8	5.7	1.2	8.3	3.5	3	3
Health	5	1	4	1	4	2	2	1
Gender	0.5		0.5		0.5	0.5		
Children & youth	1		1		1	0.5	0.5	
Disability	70.5	20	50.5	1.5	69		65.5	5
Crime & justice	3.5	2.5	1	1	2.5	2.5	0.5	0.5

Annex 3: Implementation Plan 2014 - 2016

Section ref & Outputs	Assumptions	2014	2015				2016				
		4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
4.1 Economic statistics											
4.1.1 National accounts & GDP											●
Sub-national estimates system for national accounts (TA)	TA available at no cost			●							
Sub-national estimates for national accounts released	Reliable ICT network					●	●	●	●	●	
Training of provincial data collectors and roll out of system	Provinces have resources for data collection			●	●						
Business register developed (TA)	TA available at no cost		●								
Quarterly RBV/VNSO business/enterprise survey framework implemented	RBV & VNSO agree to shared data collection			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
VNSO new position for national accounts statistician created	PSC agree to VNSO restructuring	●									
VNSO conduct informal sector survey	Additional funds available							●			
VNSO conduct street vendors survey	Additional funds available							●			
Ongoing training in compilation and analysis of National Accounts	Trainer available		●		●		●				
Satellite accounts for tourism and environment (TA)	TA available						●				●
4.1.2 Prices											●
Meta data and technical documentation for CPI	TA available		●								
CPI processing system redeveloped	TA available		●								
CPI coverage expanded to provinces	Reliable ICT network		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
4.1.3 GFS											●
Continue with program for GFS o1 compliance	TA available at no cost	●	●	●							
GFS o1 compiled at province level	Reliable ICT network, compilation centralised				●	●	●	●	●	●	
4.1.4 BoP											●
Review BoP sources and methods for transition to VNSO	TA available, agency support			●							
RBV release BoP as per GDDS schedule		●									
BoP projections and estimates disseminated	TA available, agency support			●							
Continue with program for BMP6 compliance	TA and training available		●								
RBV and VNSO share quarterly survey data through business register	Reliable ICT network, MoU signed		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
4.1.5 Monetary & banking											●
Continue with program for MFSM5 compliance	TA available at no cost	●	●	●							
Improve access to monetary and banking statistics	TA available at no cost				●	●	●	●	●	●	
4.1.6 Industry & manufacturing											●
Statistics working group established	Stakeholders engaged	●									
Survey framework and survey developed for all provinces	Add on to business register updating				●						
Quarterly industry and manufacturing survey conducted	Additional funds available						●	●	●	●	

... continued

Annex 3: Implementation Plan 2014 - 2016

Section ref & Outputs	Assumptions	2014	2015				2016				
		4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	
4.1.7 Investment & construction											●
Statistics working group established	Stakeholders engaged		●								
Quarterly business survey to include investment statistics	TA available at no cost				●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Construction permits database in all provinces	Reliable ICT network				●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Data collection framework for donor funded construction and investment	Donors provide information			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
4.1.8 Utilities & infrastructure											●
Statistics working group established	Stakeholders engaged			●							
Statistical data framework developed for all provinces	TA available at no cost				●	●					
Statistical data collection system developed and updated annually	Additional funds available						●	●	●	●	
4.1.9 Domestic trade											●
Statistics working group established	Stakeholders engaged			●							
Statistical data framework developed for all provinces	TA available at no cost					●					
Statistical data collection system developed and updated quarterly	Shipping and cargo statistics available							●	●	●	
4.1.10 External trade											●
Statistics working group established	Stakeholders engaged	●									
Improve access to and range of external trade statistics	TA available			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
International trade in services statistics released annually		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
4.1.11 Labour force & employment											●
Statistics working group established	Stakeholders engaged				●						
VNSO conduct household labour force survey	Additional funds available, TA available							●	●	●	●
VNSO disseminate analysis of business survey results	TA available							●			●
4.1.12 Tourism											●
Timely monthly immigration and tourism statistics	Dol & VNSO agree to shared data collection		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Tourism exit/expenditure survey developed and conducted	TA available, additional funds available			●				●			
Tourism satellite accounts disseminated	TA available							●			
Tourist accommodation occupancy rate survey and results	TA available, additional funds available		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
4.1.13 Poverty & living conditions											●
HIES survey conducted and poverty analysis disseminated	Additional funds available, TA available			●	●	●	●	●	●		
Training in use of HIES data for poverty analysis	Trainer available							●	●		
Poverty and wellbeing indicators defined	PMO develop strategy, TA available				●						
4.1.14 ODA											●
ODA statistics database updated quarterly and disseminated annually	TA available								●		●

... continued

Section ref & Outputs	Assumptions	2014	2015				2016			
		4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
4.2 Primary sector statistics										
4.2.1 Environment										
Statistics working group established	Stakeholders engaged			•						•
Statistical indicators and costs developed for National Environment Strategy	TA available							•		
Environment statistics disseminated annually										•
4.2.2 Climate & disaster risk reduction										
Statistics working group established	Stakeholders engaged			•						•
Statistical indicators and costs developed for National Climate Change & DRR Policy	TA available							•		
Climate change and DRR statistics disseminated annually										•
4.2.3 Energy										
Statistics working group established	Stakeholders engaged			•						•
Statistical indicators and costs developed for National Energy Road Map	TA available							•		
Survey module developed for household energy use in HIES	TA available		•	•	•	•	•	•		
4.2.4 Agriculture, forestry & fisheries										
Statistics working group established	Stakeholders engaged	•								
Statistical indicators and costs developed for productive sector strategy	TA available		•	•						
Data collection program and costing developed for statistical indicators	TA available				•					
Rural smallholder survey conducted and results disseminated	TA available, additional funds available							•	•	•
Agricultural statistician disseminating primary sector statistics annually	Funds available for new position									•
4.3 Social sector statistics										
4.3.1 Population and demographic										
Reliable and timely population estimates	VCRaVST implement work plan, TA available	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Sub-national population estimates available to users	Users define needs				•	•	•	•	•	•
Health Information System provides supporting vital statistics	HIS functioning, TA available		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
4.3.2 Education, numeracy & literacy										
Annual education statistics survey conducted and results disseminated	TA available, funds available			•	•			•	•	
Education and training survey module developed and implemented in HIES	TA available		•	•	•	•	•			
4.3.3 Health										
Health Information System provides timely and reliable health statistics	TA available, reliable ICT		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
All departments use centralised database system for data	TA and IT equipment available, reliable ICT							•	•	•

... continued

Section ref & Outputs	Assumptions	2014	2015				2016			
		4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
4.3.4 Gender										•
Statistics working group established	Stakeholders engaged	•								
Statistical indicators and costs developed for national gender policy	TA available		•							
Data collection program and costing developed for statistical indicators	TA available			•						
Gender statistics disseminated annually	Funds available					•	•			•
4.3.5 Children & youth										•
Statistics working group established	Stakeholders engaged	•								
Statistical indicators and costs developed for policy framework	TA available					•				
Data collection program and costing developed for statistical indicators	TA available						•			
Child and youth statistics disseminated annually	Funds available									•
4.3.6 Disability										•
Statistics working group established	Stakeholders engaged	•								
Statistical indicators and costs developed for national disability policy	TA available			•						
Disability survey conducted and results disseminated	TA available, funds available				•	•	•	•	•	
4.3.7 Crime & justice										•
Statistics working group established for law and justice sector	Stakeholders engaged	•								
Users have access to centralised system for crime and justice statistics	TA available, funds available						•			
Crime and justice statistical analysis disseminated annually	TA available, funds available									•

Abbreviations

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ADR	Annual Development Report
ASYCUDA	Automated System for Customs Data
BoP	Balance of Payments
BPoA	Barbados Programme of Action
COM	Council of Ministers
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CRIMS	Crime Record Information Management System
CRO	Criminal Record Office
CRVS	Civil Registration and Vital Statistics
DA&RW	Data Analysis and Report Writing
DCO	Development Committee of Officials
DG	Director General
DHS-MICS	Demographic and Household Survey and Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (combined)
DoCaIR	Department of Customs and Inland Revenue
DoE	Department of Energy
DoEPaC	Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation
DoFT	Department of Finance and Treasury
DoGMarWR	Department of Geology, Mines and Rural Water Supply
DoI	Department of Industry
DoIm	Department of Immigration
DoL	Department of Labour
DoRaS	Department of Research and Statistics
DoT	Department of Trade
DoWA	Department of Women's Affairs
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DSPPAC	Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination
ECCE	Early Childhood Care and Education
EFA	Education for All
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FISD	Financial Institutions Supervision Department
FPU	Family Protection Unit
GDDS	General Data Dissemination System
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFS	Government Finance Statistics
GIS	Geographic Information System
HIES	Household Income and Expenditure Survey
HIS	Health Information System
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IHSN	Integrated Household Survey Network
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ISIC	International Standard Industry Classification
LDC	Least Developed Country
MFEM	Ministry of Finance and Economic Management
MIPU	Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Utilities
MLNR	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
MALFFB	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Bio-Security
MJCS	Ministry of Justice and Community Services
MoE	Ministry of Education

MoH	Ministry of Health
MSG	Melanesian Spearhead Group
MSI	Mauritius Strategy for Implementation
MYST	Ministry of Youth, Sports and Training
NAB	National Advisory Board on Climate Change and DRR
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
NPF	National Police Force
OGCIO	Office of the Government Chief Information Officer
OPSP	Overarching Primary Sector Strategy
PAA	Priorities and Action Agenda 2006 – 2015
PFTAC	Pacific Financial Technical Assistance Centre (IMF)
PMO	Prime Minister’s Office
PSC	Public Service Commission
RASS	Rural Agriculture Smallholder Survey
RBV	Reserve Bank of Vanuatu
SAC	Statistics Advisory Committee
SLC	Statistical Leadership and Coordination
SOE	State Owned Enterprise
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
STAF	Sectoral Task Force
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
USP	University of the South Pacific
VCRaVST	Vanuatu Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Taskforce
VCS	Vanuatu Correctional Services
VEMIS	Vanuatu Education Management Information System
VIPA	Vanuatu Investment Promotion Authority
VLC	Vanuatu Law Commission
VNPF	Vanuatu National Provident Fund
VNSDS	Vanuatu National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
VNSO	Vanuatu National Statistics Office
VPF	Vanuatu Police Force
VNYC	Vanuatu National Youth Council
VQA	Vanuatu Qualifications Authority
VSS	Vanuatu Statistical System
VWC	Vanuatu Women’s Centre