

Evaluation of the New Zealand Government Funded Vanuatu Water Sector Partnership 2022



**Evaluation conducted and report written by:
Lisa Faerua, Melita Grant, Ken Fullerton, Amelia Chaplin,
Paul Lee and Dr Ann-Maree Nobelius.**

For Tetra Tech International Development Pty Ltd
ABN 63 007 889 081
12 August 2022

Contents

Executive summary	1
1 Background	2
1.1 Vanuatu	2
1.2 Water access in Vanuatu.....	3
1.3 The Vanuatu National Implementation Plan for Safe and Secure Community Drinking Water and the Capital Assistance Program	7
1.4 Vanuatu Gender Action Plan	12
1.5 New Zealand’s role in the Vanuatu water sector	12
2 The evaluation	13
2.1 Purpose and use	13
2.2 Focus areas.....	13
2.3 Key evaluation questions.....	13
2.4 Selection of Vanuatu provinces and communities.....	14
2.5 Evaluation and research principles.....	16
2.6 Limitations and challenges	17
3 Methods	18
3.1 Desktop review of documents	19
3.2 Stakeholder interviews	19
3.3 Photo Voice	19
3.4 Data analysis and synthesis	19
4 Evaluation findings	20
5 Key Strengths of the VWSP	22
6 Opportunities for further strengthening	28
7 Recommendations	37

Tables and figures

Table 1: Vanuatu economic indicators 2015-2020 (selected).....	2
Table 2: Vanuatu VWSP implementation partners	10
Table 3: Top ten supported WASH projects in Vanuatu	12
Table 4: Key evaluation questions addressed	13
Table 5: Pacific evaluation and research principles.....	16
Table 6: Limitations and challenges.....	17
Table 7: Evaluation Phases and Methods	18
Table 8: Evaluation recommendations.....	37
Table 9 Key evaluation questions addressed	62

Figure 1: Water and Sanitation access data for Vanuatu	3
Figure 2: Budgeted WASH expenditure per person: 2014-2021 (USD)	5
Figure 3: WASH ODA by sub-sector.....	5
Figure 4: Key moments and governance instruments	6
Figure 5: NIP and CAP operational flowchart	9
Figure 6: Vanuatu VWSP governance and management structure	11
Figure 7: Vanuatu VWSP Theory of Change diagram	11
Figure 8: Overview of Evaluation Phases	13
Figure 9: Vanuatu VWSP evaluation focus areas (Sanma and Malampa Provinces circled).....	15
Figure 10: WSP Stakeholder Interview Rating Responses.....	21
Figure 11: Indoor bathrooms and toilets as a result of funding under the CAP	23
Figure 12: Supporting community resilience	24
Figure 13: Engaging the ‘right’ stakeholders under the VWSP	25
Figure 14: Supporting effective collaboration amongst stakeholders	25
Figure 15: Achieving 100% access to safely managed drinking water by 2030	26
Figure 16: Effectiveness of the current VWSP model.....	26
Figure 17: Addressing operation and maintenance (O&M) issues	29
Figure 18: Sufficient human resources	30
Figure 19: Exposed water pipe	31
Figure 20: Perception of Sufficient financial resources.....	32
Figure 21: Effectively considering and implementing gender equality and inclusion	35
Figure 22: Financial resources.....	57
Figure 23: Human resources	57
Figure 24: The effectiveness of the VWSP model	58
Figure 25: Effective stakeholder collaboration	58
Figure 26: Involvement of the right stakeholders	59
Figure 27: Achieving the Government’s goal of 100% access to safely managed drinking water by 2030	59
Figure 28: Addressing operation and maintenance issues	60
Figure 29: Community resilience to climate change and natural disasters.....	60
Figure 30: Gender equality and inclusion	61

Acknowledgements

The evaluation team would like to thank all the interviewees involved in this evaluation. Several interviewees provided their time on multiple occasions, and generously offered their time, experience, views and advice. Thank you to leaders in the Department of Water Resources (DoWR), Government of Vanuatu, and their implementing partners including UNICEF, EWB NZ, ADRA and Hexagon.

In particular we would like to thank the communities and area councils of East Santo, South Santo, West Ambrym and provincial authorities in Sanma and Malampa provinces.

Cover photos:

Photo 1. Michelle Knappstein, NZ citizen, former EWB and now UNICEF contractor, supports DoWR to monitor construction in Erromango. © UNICEF Pacific 2021

Photo 2: UNICEF consultant supporting DoWR staff during a field assessment. © Knappstein, 2020

Photo 3. Interns photographed mixing cement as a UNICEF-facilitated intern at DoWR in 2018. This intern is now the second female technical staff at DOWR (© Rand/2019)

List of Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CAP	Capital Assistance Program
COVID-19	Novel coronavirus
DoWR	Department of Water Resources - Vanuatu
DFAT	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
DPO	Disabled Persons Organisation
DWSP	Drinking Water Safety Planning
DWSSP	Drinking Water Safety and Security Plan
EWBNZ	Engineers without Borders New Zealand
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GEDSI	Gender equality, disability and social inclusion
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
ISF UTS	Institute of Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney
JMP	Joint Monitoring Program
KEQ	Key evaluation question
LDC	Least developed country
M&E	Monitoring and evaluation
MEL	Monitoring, evaluation and learning
MFAT	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NIP	Vanuatu National Implementation Plan (NIP) for Safe and Secure Community Drinking Water
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NWRI	National Water Resources Inventory
O&M	Operations and maintenance
ODA	Overseas development assistance
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TA	Technical assistance
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
USD	United States Dollar
USP	University of the South Pacific
VSA	Volunteer Services Abroad
VWSP	Vanuatu Water Sector Partnership
WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization
VWSP	Vanuatu Water Sector Partnership

Executive summary

The Vanuatu Water Sector Partnership (VWSP), first established in 2017, was informed by water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector strengthening activities funded by the New Zealand Government's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and Vanuatu's National Water Policy. The VWSP involves MFAT directly funding the Vanuatu Department of Water Resources (DoWR), as well as UNICEF and Engineers Without Borders, New Zealand (EWBNZ). Since 2017, the partnership has evolved, and has now reached a stage of maturity underpinned by trust and ownership of the program by DoWR. The VWSP enables tailored, flexible, demand-driven technical, and capacity development support, provided by UNICEF and EWBNZ. The partnership also provides funding for the unique Capacity Assistance Program (CAP) for WASH infrastructure aimed to improve health outcomes in more than 2000 communities across Vanuatu.

"This is the best WASH program I have been involved with over 25 years of my WASH career" - interviewee

This independent evaluation took place between March and June 2022. The evaluation involved interviews with stakeholders across the spectrum of funders, government staff, implementers and community members. We conducted 21 interviews involving 31 stakeholders, collected and analysed both qualitative and quantitative data, in addition to reviewing documents, published articles, and data provided to us by MFAT and other key stakeholders. Data collection was conducted remotely due to COVID-19 lockdowns and associated travel restrictions in Vanuatu.

Key strengths of the existing VWSP were reported to be the:

- System strengthening approach of the partnership
- Flexible funding modality
- Overarching governance framework enabled by the VWSP model
- Community-led, bottom-up process for identifying WASH investments and potential projects
- Selection process for funding, based on risk assessments and agreed processes as outlined by the VWSP model
- Functionality of some Community Water Committees
- Area Administrators function and their role in coordinating WASH across multiple villages/communities
- Government documentation and enabling access to policies and documents by different stakeholders.

"The flexibility in the funding, and ownership of the Government's Department of Water Resources are some of the greatest strengths of the VWSP" - interviewee

Opportunities for further strengthening of the partnership and the functions that it supports included:

- Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of WASH infrastructure and clearer responsibilities related to ongoing funding for O&M
- Capacity building of provincial staff and community members, including O&M, plumbers, engineers, and coordinators (particularly for women wherever possible).
- Transparency of decisions related to which communities are funded and prioritised and risk assessment processes
- Financial sustainability at the local/community level such as in relation to the regular payment of Water Committee fees
- Diversifying the range of people who can operate and maintain WASH infrastructure in communities (including women, youth, and people with disabilities, where appropriate)
- Enhanced and deeper focus on gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) including representation on appropriate community and provincial committees or groups
- Tendering processes need to move to more online systems with shorter assessment processes
- Stronger focus on enabling resilience to risks associated with climate change and natural disasters
- Monitoring and evaluation processes continuing at agreed time points throughout the life of the VWSP and needing more feedback loops and learning
- Ensuring contractor accountability for incomplete projects
- Greater coordination with Ministry of Health in terms of community sanitation and funders within the structures and processes of the VWSP model

"I wish all donors would deliver development assistance in this way" - interviewee

The evaluation team have identified 34 recommendations for consideration by MFAT and the implementing partners, to evolve and enhance the Vanuatu VWSP and associated governance structures that it feeds into and supports. It should be noted that the VWSP forms one part of a broader and larger water sector governance framework, and some of the information provided in this report and recommendations relate to that broader context and are not limited to the MFAT funded VWSP.

Background

In February 2022, the New Zealand Government's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) commissioned an evaluation of the Vanuatu Water Sector Partnership (VWSP). This Section provides background information on the current state of water access in Vanuatu, the Vanuatu National Implementation Plan (NIP) and Capital Assistance Program (CAP) and how this has resulted in the planning, implementation and enforcement of the Water Sector Activity. Finally, we look back at New Zealand's role in supporting the Vanuatu water sector which commenced in 2003 and has been ongoing since then.

Vanuatu

Located in the South Pacific, the country of Vanuatu comprises more than 80 islands with a total land area of 12,200 square kilometres.¹ The population currently totals over 320,000 people, more than 108 living languages are spoken (more per unit than any other country) and it has a diverse governance system including local chiefs as leaders at the village level alongside village, area and island councils.² Traditional knowledge remains highly valued but a high degree of reliance on natural resources for livelihoods, food and water security is now being combined with urbanisation and a growing population.³

Vanuatu was classified by the United Nations as a Least Developed Country (LDC) in 1985 and only recently, in 2020, graduated from that classification due to its development-focused programs and achievements.⁴ Government revenues and expenditures have steadily increased over recent years as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Vanuatu economic indicators 2015-2020 (selected)⁵

Indicator	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
GDP growth rate (% constant price)	0.2	3.5	4.4	2.9	2.8	-2.3
Inflation rate (%)	2.5	0.8	3.1	2.3	2.8	2.9
Government revenue (billions of national currency)	28.0	30.1	34.1	39.8	41.3	45.0
Government expenditure (billions of national currency)	33.1	31.2	35.2	33.5	34.1	45.1
Government balance (% of GDP)	-6.4	-1.3	-1.2	6.3	6.7	-0.1
Net ODA received (millions of USD)	186.6	129.1	132.7	130.9	130.6	NA ⁶

In recent years, Vanuatu has been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in the government closing its border in March 2020 and by natural disasters. In the *World Risk Report 2015*, Vanuatu was ranked as the highest disaster risk country (Index value: 36.72) among the 171 countries that were assessed, followed by Tonga (Index value: 28.45) and the Philippines (Index value: 27.98).⁷ After recovering from Cyclone Pam in 2015 Vanuatu was hit by Cyclone Harold in 2020, which was rated as a Category 5 cyclone and affected more than 159,000 people (approximately half the country's population) and

¹ Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, *Vanuatu National Environment Policy and Implementation Plan 2016-2030*, 2017, p.5.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid

⁴ United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Vanuatu Profile*, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category-vanuatu.html>

⁵ Source: United Nations Committee for Development Policy, *Monitoring of countries graduating and graduated from the list of LDC category: Vanuatu*, February 2022, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/CDP-PL-2022-8-8-Monitoring.pdf>, p.2.

⁶ There is no number provided for this field in the reference.

⁷ Integrated Research on Disaster Risk, *World Risk Index*, 1 March 2016, <https://irdinternational.org/news/590>

multiple and ongoing volcanic eruptions on the island of Ambrym threatening people and property.⁸ Being so risk of being heavily impacted by natural disasters of different types has also impacted the ability of the Vanuatu Government and other key stakeholders to enable access to safe, clean and reliable sources of water across the country. This is explored further below.

Water access in Vanuatu

Vanuatu 2030, Vanuatu’s National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 to 2030, is focused on achieving a balance ‘between the social, environmental and economic pillars of sustainable development, with [Vanuatu people’s] cultural heritage as the foundation of an inclusive society.’⁹ Described as the ‘[Vanuatu] People’s Plan’ it notes that ‘the words on [the Plan’s] pages must translate into action on the ground in villages and urban centres across the country.’¹⁰ The Plan includes a strong focus on enabling better access to essential services such as modern energy sources, safe drinking water and sanitation.¹¹ Without access to these services, Vanuatu people will not be able to ‘empower their families and communities to fulfil their contributions to society and realise their ambitions.’¹²

Economy policy objective 2.2 of the Plan specifically states, ‘Ensure all people have reliable access to safe drinking water and sanitation infrastructure.’¹³ However, as of 2021, approximately 75% of the country’s population were exposed to a water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) related illnesses each year.¹⁴ Water availability, water quality, and access to water, are all current challenges that need to be addressed.

The Joint Monitoring Program (JMP) data shows that 88% of people living in rural areas have access to a basic service of drinking water, but data for ‘safely managed’ water was not available for rural areas. Safely managed water services are those that include three criteria:

- It should be accessible on the premises (accessibility);
- Water should be available when needed (availability); and
- The water supplied should be free from contamination (quality).

The sanitation situations in Vanuatu are also cause for concern, with 39% of the population lacking a basic sanitation service Figure 1a and 1b.

Figure 1a: Water and Sanitation access data for Vanuatu¹⁵

Vanuatu	Drinking water			Sanitation			Hygiene		
	National*	Rural*	Urban	National*	Rural*	Urban*	National	Rural	Urban
	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2020	2017	2017	2017
Safely managed	-	-	57	-	-	-	-	-	-
Basic service	91	88	43	53	49	65	25	17	48
Limited service	1	1	1	16	12	27	43	46	33
Unimproved	0	0	0	31	39	8	-	-	-
No service	8	10	0	0	0	1	32	36	19

Source: WHO/UNICEF JMP (2021)

⁸ Source: United Nations Committee for Development Policy, *Monitoring of countries graduating and graduated from the list of LDC category: Vanuatu*, February 2022, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/wp-content/uploads/sites/45/CDP-PL-2022-8-8-Monitoring.pdf>, p.2.

⁹ Republic of Vanuatu, Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination, *Vanuatu 2030 The People’s Plan – National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 to 2030*, [https://doi.gov.vu/images/docs/national-strategy-plans/Vanuatu%20National%20Sustainable%20Development%20Plan%20\(2016-2030\).pdf](https://doi.gov.vu/images/docs/national-strategy-plans/Vanuatu%20National%20Sustainable%20Development%20Plan%20(2016-2030).pdf), p.5.

¹⁰ Ibid, p.21.

¹¹ Ibid, p.5.

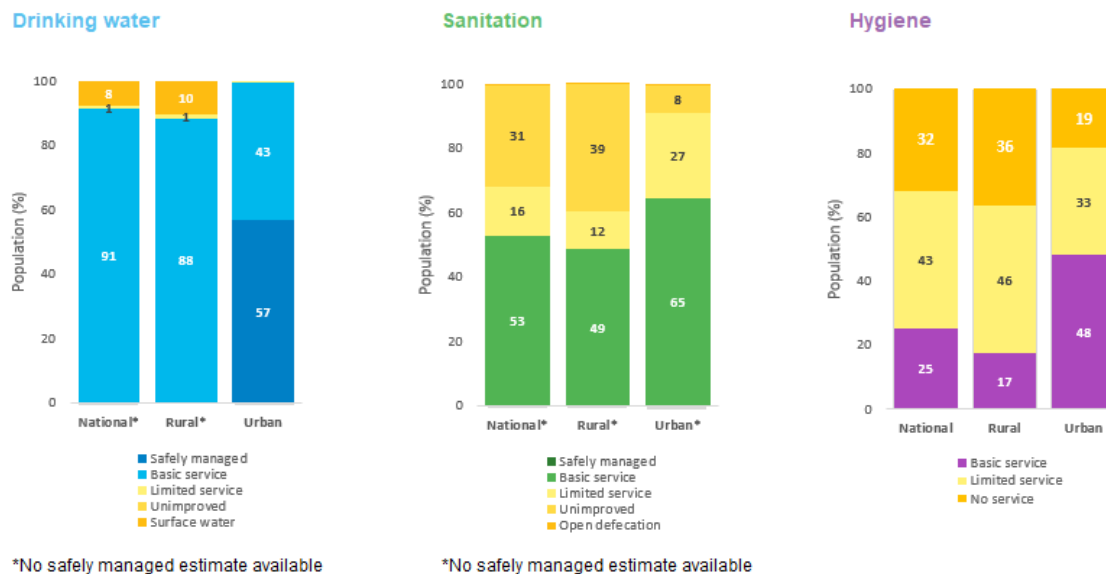
¹² Ibid.p.5.

¹³ Ibid, p.16.

¹⁴ Government of Vanuatu, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and Department of Water Resources, *MFAT Funded Water Sector Partnership Program August 2021 Report*, p.4.

¹⁵ Source: Joint Monitoring Program, Vanuatu drinking water, sanitation and hygiene data, accessed at <https://washdata.org/data/household#!/>.

Figure 2b: Water and Sanitation access data for Vanuatu¹⁶



To help address water-related challenges, and deliver on *Vanuatu 2030* development objectives, the Vanuatu Government and other key stakeholders, understand that a coordinated policy and program approach is required. This is to ensure activities are not implemented on a fragmented (siloed) basis; community engagement, design and support is achieved; and key implementation partners work together to build capacity and lay the foundations for ongoing development and the provision of technical support.

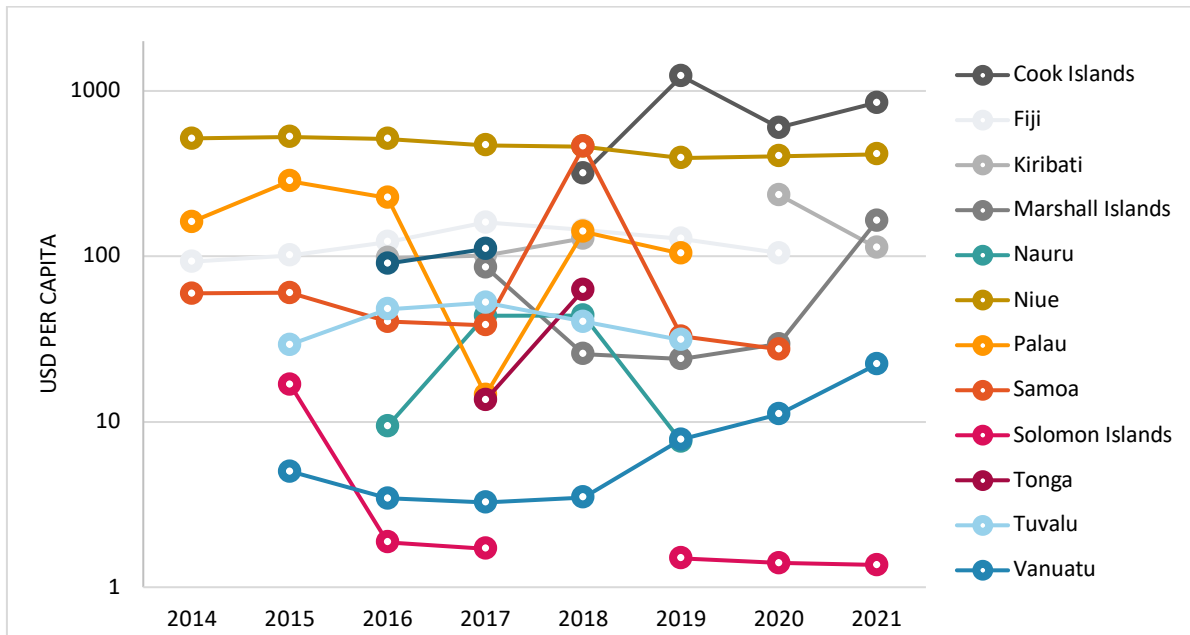
Financing WASH in Vanuatu

WASH expenditure per capita in Vanuatu was US\$22 in 2021, the second lowest per capita in the Pacific as shown in Figure 3. Despite limited funding and increased pressures on WASH systems, the rate of increase in access to basic water in Vanuatu is one of the fastest in the Pacific which is encouraging, but not enough to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6.¹⁷

¹⁶ Source: Joint Monitoring Program, Vanuatu drinking water, sanitation and hygiene data, accessed at <https://washdata.org/data/household#!/>.

¹⁷ Foster, T., (2022) WASH Financing in the Pacific: Landscape Report. Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney, Australia. URL forthcoming.

Figure 3: Budgeted WASH expenditure per person: 2014-2021 (USD)¹⁸



The following figure shows that the majority of overseas development assistance (ODA) is being put towards basic drinking water and basic sanitation (80%) which is the highest level of investment for these kinds of services from a percentage perspective, across the region.

Figure 4: WASH ODA by sub-sector.¹⁹

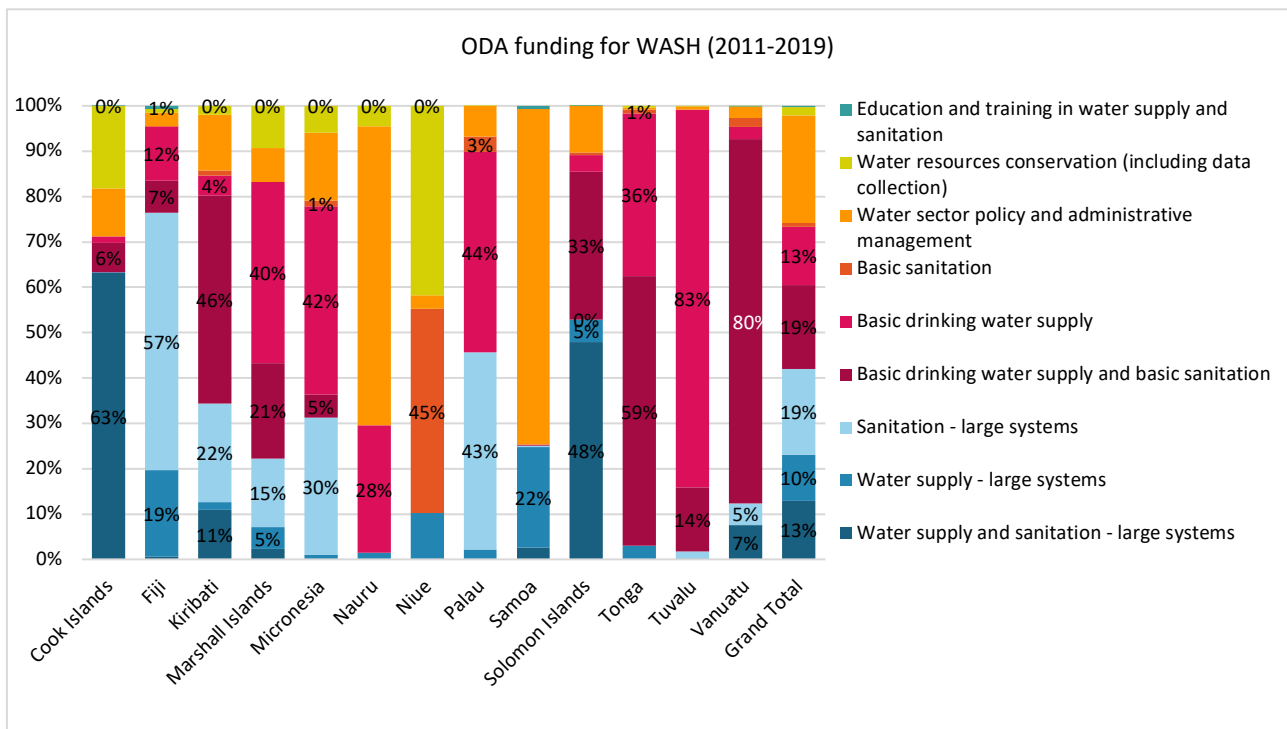


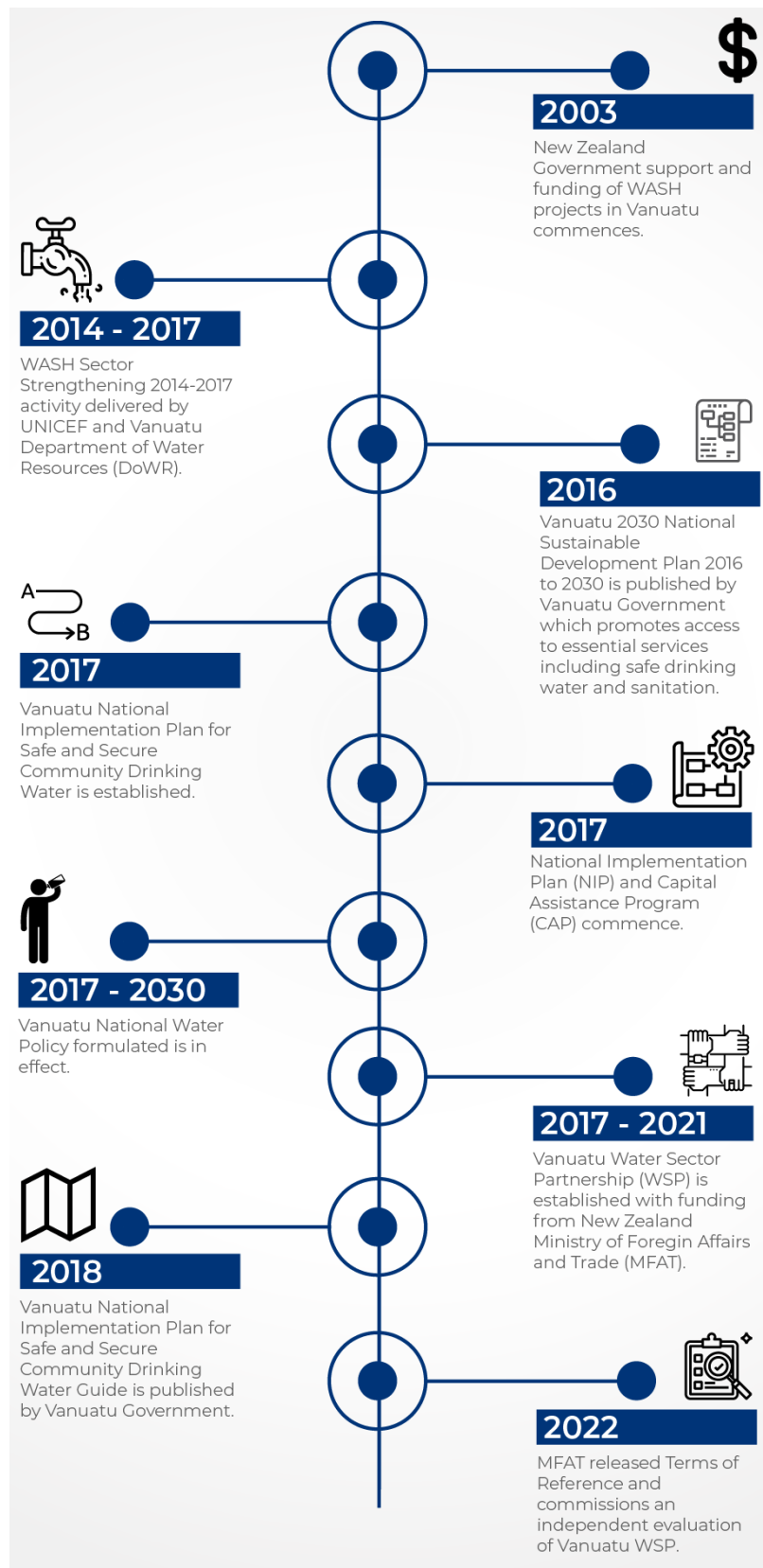
Figure 5 below provides an overview of some key moments and governance instruments put in place by the Vanuatu Government, with MFAT and other donor support to improve water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in Vanuatu since 2003. It should be noted that other organisations and donors (for example through Japan,

¹⁸ Foster, T., (2022) WASH Financing in the Pacific: Landscape Report. Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney, Australia. URL forthcoming.

¹⁹ Foster, T., (2022) WASH Financing in the Pacific: Landscape Report. Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney, Australia. URL forthcoming.

Italy and the World Bank) have also provided funding and/or technical assistance to support the design and development of WASH-related projects in Vanuatu. These supports are not listed in Figure 5 but have the potential to be integrated under the current VWSP model.

Figure 5: Key moments and governance instruments put in place by the Vanuatu Government, with MFAT and other donor support to improve water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in Vanuatu.



The Vanuatu National Implementation Plan for Safe and Secure Community Drinking Water and the Capital Assistance Program

The following Section outlines some of the formative and fundamental aspects of water management and governance in Vanuatu. It includes the:

- WASH Sector Strengthening 2014-2017
- The Vanuatu National Water Policy (2017 – 2030)
- National Implementation Plan (NIP)
- Capital Assistance Program (CAP)
- Community Drinking Water Safety & Security Plans (DWSSP)
- Water Sector Partnership

While MFAT has not funded all of these aspects, the core funding that it has provided to DoWR, and the capacity development focussed funding for the Department and provincial authorities, as well as funding for the Capital Assistance Program (CAP) means that MFAT funding has been instrumental to implementing all these aspects of Vanuatu's water sector governance. Each is described below.

WASH Sector Strengthening 2014-2017

A WASH Sector Strengthening 2014-2017 activity, funded by MFAT and delivered by UNICEF and DoWR, found that a sector wide approach was needed to ensure improvements were made, at the community level, and coordinated nationally, rather than following an approach where organisations and funders might support the design and development of WASH-related projects on more of an ad-hoc basis. As a result, the National Implementation Plan for Safe and Secure Community Drinking Water (NIP) was developed and launched, providing a national framework for achieving Vanuatu's vision of 100% access to safely managed drinking water by 2030.²⁰

The Vanuatu National Water Policy (2017 – 2030)

The Vanuatu National Water Policy (2017-2030) seeks to deliver the policy objectives established by the National Sustainable Development Plan (2016-2030). These include:

- Ensuring safe water services for all
- Protecting community water sources
- Building community natural resource management capacity
- Reducing communicable diseases
- Strengthening local authorities to enable decentralised service delivery
- Strengthening physical planning to meets the need of a growing population.

National Implementation Plan

The National Implementation Plan (NIP) was finalised in 2017 and contains two key implementation mechanisms including:

Drinking Water Safety and Security Plans (DWSSP); a community level planning tool and data collection mechanism that enables the community, province and DoWR to prioritise, plan and implement water infrastructure investments across different provinces and communities in Vanuatu. The tool helps to prioritise vulnerable communities who are most at risk using the 'risk ranking'. Through prioritisation of projects using this process, The DOWR encourages other implementation partners, such as NGO who do not put funds in the CAP, to implement the prioritised projects identified through the NIP in any provinces that the NGOS operate.

The Capital Assistance Program (CAP); a pool of donor funds to support prioritised projects identified through the NIP and DWSSPs. The DoWR ensures that the finance and procurement mechanism are developed, implemented and enforced in an accountable and transparent process for all stakeholders and aligned to the Vanuatu Government Financial, Procurement and Tender Board Procedures. This enables DoWR, provinces and area administrators to deliver water infrastructure projects for communities that have completed a DWSSP and are considered high risk in terms of their water supply system.

²⁰ Government of Vanuatu, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources and Department of Water Resources, *MFAT Funded Water Sector Partnership Program August 2021 Report*, p.4.

The NIP recognises and builds on:

- Progress to achieve Millennium Development Goal 7 (MDG7) target to reduce the number of people without access to safe drinking water by 2015 (note: the MDGs were signed in September 2000 and were superseded by the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015)
- Planning and progress to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG6) to 'ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all'²¹ by 2030
- *Vision 2030*, National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 to 2030 (see Section 1.1).²²

A key objective of the NIP is for all 2000 Vanuatu communities across the six provinces of Vanuatu to complete a DWSSP by 2030. They 'will require ongoing support to design, implement, review and update their DWSSPs.' Based on data provided by the Vanuatu Department of Water Resources in June 2022, a total of 166 communities have their own DWSSPs. Further information on who has funded them, the provinces, communities, area councils, sources of water and types of water systems installed are listed in Annex 2.

Capital Assistance Program (CAP)

There are over 2000 community water schemes across six island provinces in Vanuatu, these schemes are managed under the community-based management model involving the development of DWSSPs at the local level. As explained in a recent case study of the Vanuatu CAP "In each DWSSP, communities identify water safety (quality) and security (quantity) risks, and create a plan to address the risks. Plans may identify improvements that are within, and beyond, the community's financial and technical capacity. Improvements that are beyond the community's capacity may be funded by the CAP, if eligibility criteria are met. CAP funding can be used for investigations, construction, and equipment to improve water supply safety and security. Committees cannot use funds for ongoing operational costs such as fuel and oil for pumps, salaries for staff or the community rural water committee, or ongoing water quality monitoring. In addition, land purchase costs, or infrastructure for individual houses are not eligible, nor are items that were not included in the DWSSP. It takes approximately five years for water committees to move from their initial training, registration, DWSSP completion, CAP application and design approvals, construction and evaluation" (Foster and Cunningham, 2022. Forthcoming)²³. Progress of the CAP has been summarised by Foster and Cunningham (2022) as follows:

CAP progress at June 2022

As of June 2022:

- 2400²⁴ water supply schemes have been registered in Vanuatu
- 266 (11%) of committees have completed a DWSSP
- 83 (3%²⁵) of water points have completed improvements via the CAP (over 83 communities have completed improvements funded through the CAP program supporting water supply improvements for over 14,400 people²⁶)
- Over half of improvements have included rainwater harvesting, and gravity-fed water systems.

CAP funding summary in 2021

As of June 2021:

VUV 223,134,600²⁷ spent on the CAP in 2021, totalling 74% of the DoWR spend in provinces"

- 55% of schemes funded via CAP were rainwater harvesting; 23% direct gravity feed; 18% indirect gravity feed; and 4% indirect gravity feed;
- Cost of schemes range from VUV 2.2 to 12 million²⁸

²¹ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *Sustainable Development Goal 6*

²² Government of Vanuatu, Ministry of Lands, *Vanuatu National Implementation Plan for Safe and Secure Community Drinking Water – A Guide to the Plan*, 21 August 2018, p.3.

²³ Foster and Cunningham (2022) Reference forthcoming

²⁴ All values in this box from DoWR Information system

²⁵ i.e. 31% of committees that have completed a DWSSP have completed low/no cost improvements to their water supply

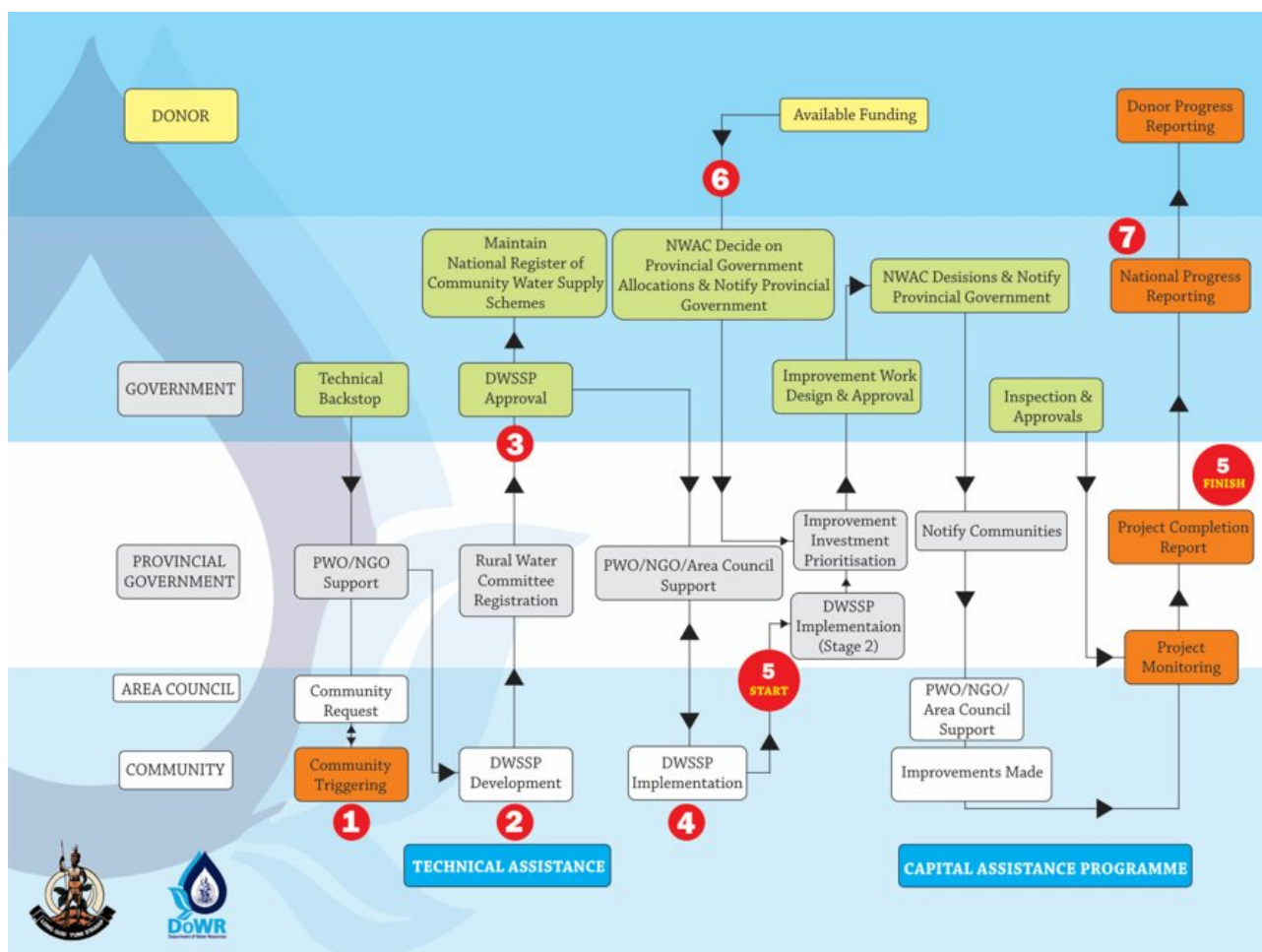
²⁶ Based on estimations from DoWR staff

²⁷ Total derived from Government of Vanuatu's 2021 Budget Book, capital expenditure only

²⁸ Average costs obtained from DoWR staff, with rainwater harvesting systems the cheapest and gravity fed and desalination systems the most expensive

The NIP and CAP operational flowchart is presented in Figure 6 below.

Figure 6: NIP and CAP operational flowchart²⁹



National Water Resources Inventory (NWRI)

The National Water Inventory (NWRI) was developed to:

- Support better targeting for funding (prioritising those who have no access), and it gives DoWR a better understanding on the current assets across the country including the gaps
- Support O&M by better understanding the age of systems, current status, functionality and gives insights into the management processes and needs
- Include questions related to management and gender issues, which supports monitoring of participation by women, and has been used in advocacy
- Comply with the Vanuatu *Water Resources Management Act 2004*

In the Vanuatu Water Sector Partnership, the DoWR collects data, and UNICEF and ISF-UTS³⁰ provide analytical and technical support for how to collect, analyse and display the data.

Community Drinking Water Safety & Security Plans

Drinking Water Safety Planning (DWSP) became an internationally accepted approach in 2004 when it was included in the third edition of the World Health Organization (WHO) Guidelines on Drinking-water Quality. The Pacific islands, including Vanuatu, were triggered to adopt the approach in 2005 following the WHO Workshop on Drinking Water Quality Standards and Monitoring in Pacific Island Countries. When being adapted to suit the local context and conditions in Vanuatu, the DoWR in 2015 amended the name slightly to have a Drinking Water Safety & Security Plan (DWSSP) rather than just a Drinking Water Safety Plan. The inclusion of the 'Security' component of the plan was in response to an extended drought period after

²⁹ Source: Department of Water Resources, *Vanuatu National Implementation Plan (NIP) and Capital Assistance Program (CAP) for Safe and Secure Community Drinking Water*, PowerPoint presentation, slide 28.

³⁰ Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney (ISF-UTS)

Tropical Cyclone Pam to help ensure every Vanuatu community has access to both safe and sufficient clean water supplies.

Preparing a **Community Drinking Water Safety & Security Plan** DWSSP involves a systematic assessment of every aspect of providing safe and secure drinking-water, identifying what threatens the continuous supply of safe drinking water, and developing plans to manage these threats.³¹

The Vanuatu Water Sector Partnership

Following the completion of the WASH Sector Strengthening 2014-2017 activity in December 2017, a new sector focused activity entitled the Water Sector Partnership was designed and implemented to draw on the NIP – and engagement and research undertaken to prepare it – to strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of the DoWR to then implement the NIP.

The Vanuatu VWSP is a 4-year activity designed to support the Department of Water Resources to operationalise their National Implementation Plan for Safe and Secure Water.

The three main outputs of the VWSP are to:

- Strengthen the national water related information base
- Implement the National Implementation Plan for Safe and Secure Water.
- Strengthen the Department of Water Resources (DoWR) technical and institutional capacity at a national and provincial level.

Three organisations have been contracted by MFAT to provide support and help implement the VWSP required between 2017 and 2021 as shown in Table 2. Originally, funded to the value of NZ\$6.3 million the total cost of the VWSP is approximately \$NZ14.5 million (Table 2). Funding has more than doubled as a result of additional funding being provided in response to Tropical Cyclone Harold and addressing climate change. The implementation partners focus on:

- Working with communities across Vanuatu to identify, map and prioritise water safety and security needs
- Developing water supply improvement projects to address these needs, prioritise the projects based on evidence of greatest need, procure expertise to implement the projects, and mobilise and manage funding to finance them.

Table 2: Vanuatu VWSP implementation partners

Partner	Original contract cost	Current contract cost	Focus
Department of Water Resources (DoWR)	\$NZ958,950	\$NZ9,649,450	Strengthen the national water-resource information base Implement the NIP for Safe and Secure Water Strengthen DoWR technical and institutional capacity at National and Provincial level
UNICEF	\$NZ751,606	\$NZ2,921,106	Provide technical advice to support VWSP outcomes with DoWR (strategy, planning and management and VWSP implementation)
Engineers without Borders New Zealand (EWBNZ)	\$NZ68,000	\$NZ206,660	Provide technical support for scoping, recruitment and training of technical EWBNZ and Volunteer Services Abroad (VSA) volunteers Facilitates technical support and mentoring for 9 volunteer assignments for 18 months (originally 3)
Total	\$NZ1,778,556	\$NZ12,777,216	

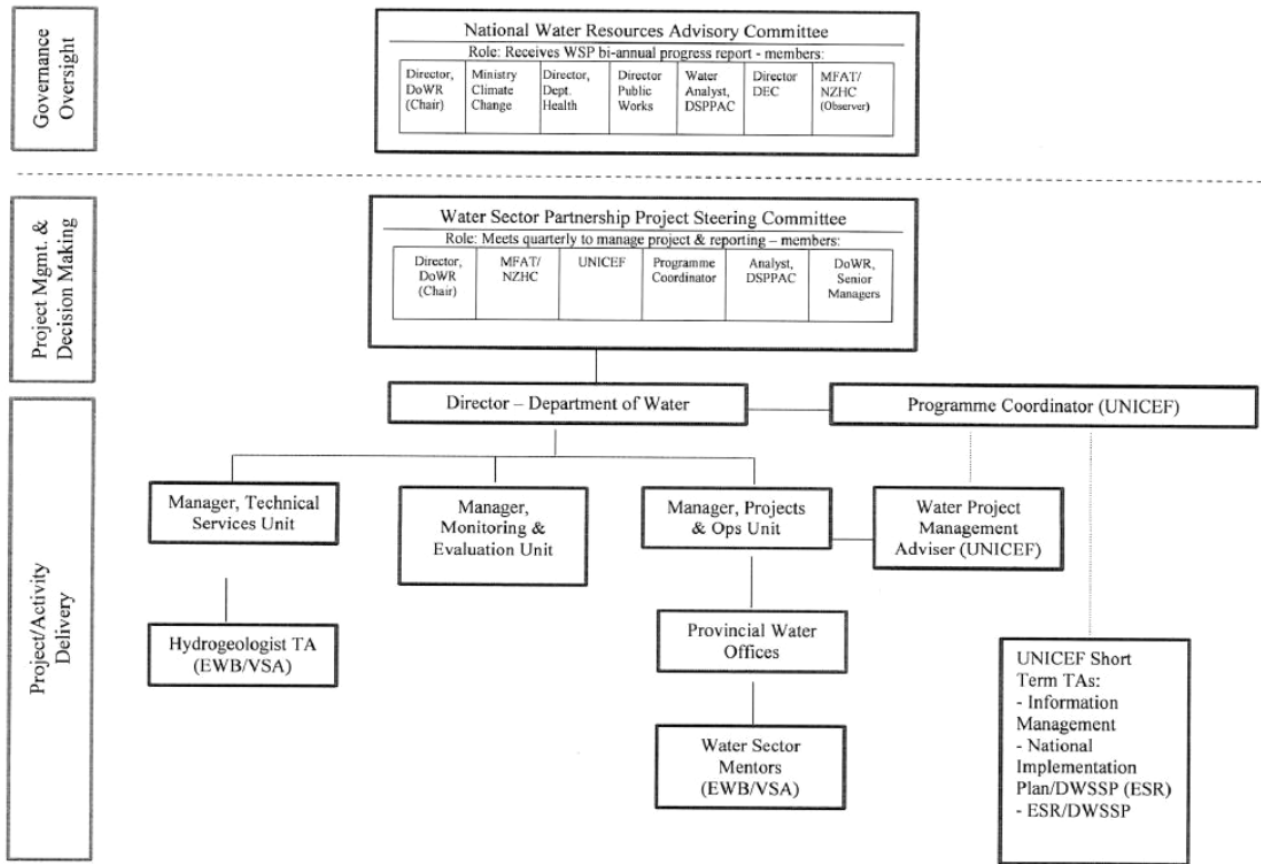
Source: Water Sector Partnership Evaluation, Overview of Partnership, p.1.

The VWSP's Governance and Management Structure is presented below in Figure 7 Oversight is provided by the National Water Resources Advisory Committee and project management and decision making are the responsibility of the VWSP Steering Committee. Below them, project activities and delivery are overseen by

³¹ Source: https://mol.gov.vu/images/News-Photo/water/DoWR_File/Monitoring_Evaluation/190529_-_DWSSP_Facilitators_Guide.pdf

the Director of the Department of Water and the UNICEF Programme Coordinator who are supported by various managers and other technical staff.

Figure 7: Vanuatu VWSP governance and management structure

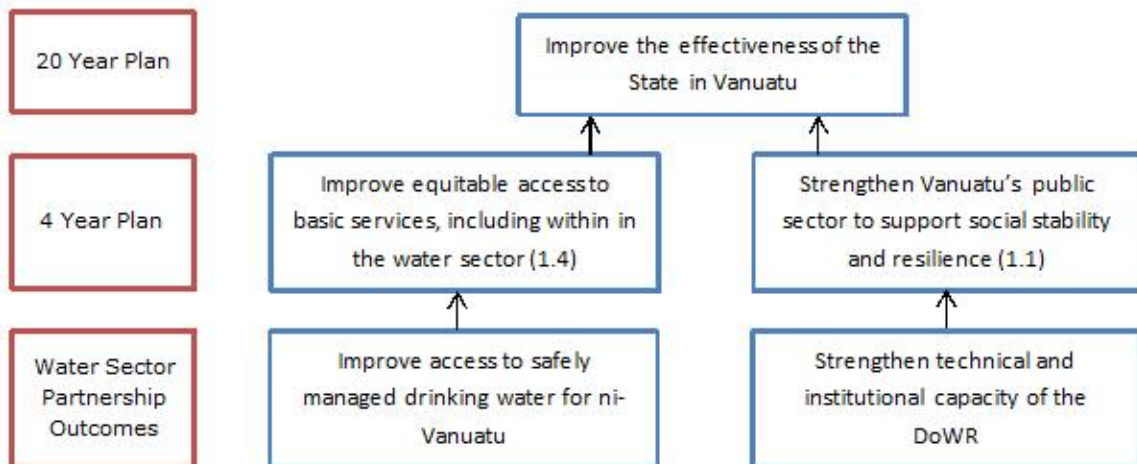


Source: Overview of Partnership arrangements, MFAT, p.2.

Theory of change – Vanuatu water sector partnership

The Vanuatu Water Sector Partnership is focussed on system strengthening and long-term outcomes as shown below in Figure 8. in the following Theory of Change.

Figure 8: Vanuatu VWSP Theory of Change diagram



Source: Water Sector Partnership, Years 2-4, Vanuatu Four Year Plan: Business Case, - VLA & PACMM, October 2018, p.9.

Vanuatu Gender Action Plan

Developed by the DoWR, supported by UNICEF, the ‘Vanuatu Gender Action Plan’ (GAP) outlines practical and tangible actions that it takes to intensify gender integration in institutional systems, processes, and resources for implementation of WASH programme to deliver gender responsive programme results.³²

It recognises that WASH institutional processes and systems must be gender responsive if accountability is to be increased in relation to Government of Vanuatu’s ability to design and implement WASH programs. As a result, government offices, schools and healthcare facilities need to have gender responsive facilities for female employees alongside spaces for female employees to participate effectively in relevant decision-making processes.

The Gender Action Plan is aligned with the Vanuatu National Policy on Gender Equality 2015-2019 and prioritises two areas:

- Gender equity in WASH program implementation
- Gender responsive workplace

A rapid review of the GAP is provided in Section 6m of this evaluation, and relevant recommendations are included in Section 0.

New Zealand’s role in the Vanuatu water sector

New Zealand is the largest donor in the Vanuatu water sector. Between 2011 and 2019 New Zealand development finance disbursements to Vanuatu for WASH were \$13.1 million.³³ Australia (\$3.15 million) and Japan (\$2.85 million) were the second and third highest donors.³⁴

As Table 3 below shows, New Zealand has funded eight of the highest-cost projects implemented in Vanuatu over the same timeframe.

Table 3: Top ten supported WASH projects in Vanuatu

#	AMOUNT	YEAR	DONOR	RECIPIENT	SECTOR	SUB-SECTOR	PROJECT TITLE
1.	\$2.29mn	2019	Japan	Vanuatu	Water Supply & Sanitation	Basic drinking water supply and basic sanitation	Economic and Social Development Programme
2.	\$1.77mn	2015	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Water Supply & Sanitation	Basic drinking water supply and basic sanitation	Water supply systems and sector strengthening
3.	\$1.4mn	2014	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Water Supply & Sanitation	Basic drinking water supply and basic sanitation	Water supply systems and sector strengthening
4.	\$1.36mn	2019	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Water Supply & Sanitation	Basic drinking water supply and basic sanitation	Water supply systems and sector strengthening
5.	\$1.34mn	2014	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Water Supply & Sanitation	Water supply and sanitation - large systems	Water and sanitation on Tanna and Pentecost
6.	\$0.94mn	2016	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Water Supply & Sanitation	Basic drinking water supply and basic sanitation	WASH Promotion & Resilience Building
7.	\$0.93mn	2017	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Water Supply & Sanitation	Basic drinking water supply and basic sanitation	Water supply systems and sector strengthening
8.	\$0.6mn	2017	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Water Supply & Sanitation	Basic drinking water supply and basic sanitation	Vanuatu WASH in Schools
9.	\$0.56mn	2016	New Zealand	Vanuatu	Water Supply & Sanitation	Basic drinking water supply and basic sanitation	Water supply systems and sector strengthening
10.	\$0.54mn	2014	Australia	Vanuatu	Water Supply & Sanitation	Basic drinking water supply and basic sanitation	Civil Society Grants

Source: Stockholm Environment Institute, Aid Atlas of Development Finance, Detailed Profile for All Donors to Vanuatu for Water Supply & Sanitation during 2011-2019, p.4.

³² Vanuatu Department of Water Resources, *DoWR Gender Action Plan Concept and Annual Updates*, p.2

³³ Stockholm Environment Institute, *Aid Atlas of Development Finance, Detailed Profile for All Donors to Vanuatu for Water Supply & Sanitation during 2011-2019*, p.2

³⁴ *Ibid.*

The evaluation

The independent evaluation of the Vanuatu VWSP took place between March and July 2022. This Section describes the evaluation, its purpose, focus, key evaluation questions and the limitations faced by the evaluation team.

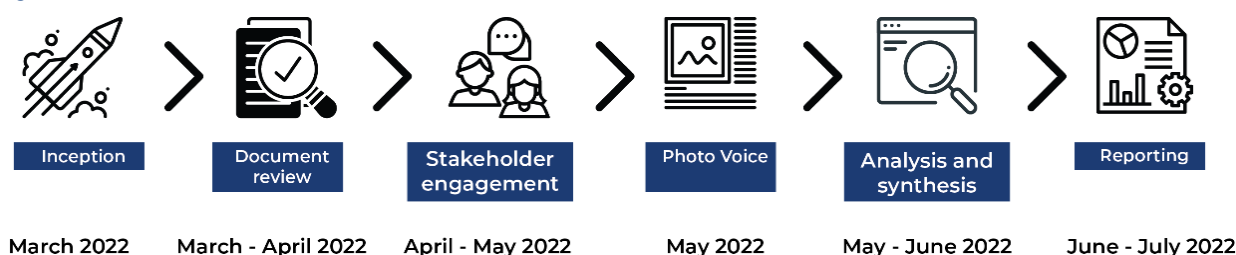
Purpose and use

The purpose of the evaluation of the Vanuatu VWSP is to:

- Identify areas where the VWSP activity is working well and where it is not working
- Identify improvements that can be made to managing, implementing, and achieving results under the VWSP activity
- Inform decisions on how to proceed with the second phase of the VWSP and, based on evaluation results, provide future direction, design and support.

The evaluation was structured in six phases as presented in Figure 9 below. Each phase had a specific objective, approach and methods as described in Section 0 of this report.

Figure 9: Overview of Evaluation Phases



Focus areas

The evaluation focuses on activities implemented under the VWSP between 2017 and 2020 while taking into account New Zealand’s continuous support to Vanuatu’s Department of Water Resources since 2014.

Within Vanuatu, we focused on the two provinces of Sanma and Malampa, and our rationale for deciding which provinces to engaged is further explained in Section 0.

Key evaluation questions

The evaluation focused on seven key evaluation questions (KEQs) as shown in Table 4 below covering three objectives. Detailed responses to each KEQ are presented in Chapter 0.

Table 4: Key evaluation questions addressed

Objective	KEQ
Objective 1: To examine the progress towards achieving the Water Sector Partnership (VWSP) outputs and short- and medium-term outcomes (Effectiveness)	1. Where is the Activity doing well and what areas need further strengthening?
	2. Does the Activity structure (contracts with DoWR, UNICEF and Engineers without Borders NZ (EWNZ)) and its methodology support progress towards outcomes?
Objective 2: To review the cost effectiveness of the Water Sector Partnership and its’ ability to deliver results (Efficiency)	3. Is the Activity making the best use of funding? The evaluation should include an assessment on the funding modality, the quantum of funding, the areas where the funding is going to and how well it is being spent to achieve outputs and outcomes.
Objective 3: Future design and support to identify the key changes needed to deliver sustainable outcomes from a second phase of the Vanuatu Water Sector Partnership	4. Will the systems and processes established through the Water Sector Partnership continue to work and deliver benefits to ni-Vanuatu people over time?
	5. Conduct assessment of the relevance of the outputs and outcomes of the Water Sector Partnership. Are the outputs

Objective	KEQ
	and outcomes still relevant for a second phase? What could be changed?
	6. Are there gaps or opportunities where New Zealand can support the DoWR to achieve their outcomes?
	7. What is the best way for the partners to build on the progress made from 2017 – 2021?

Please see Annex 4 for an explanation of how these KEQs have been addressed throughout this evaluation, noting that some KEQs have been addressed in several sections.

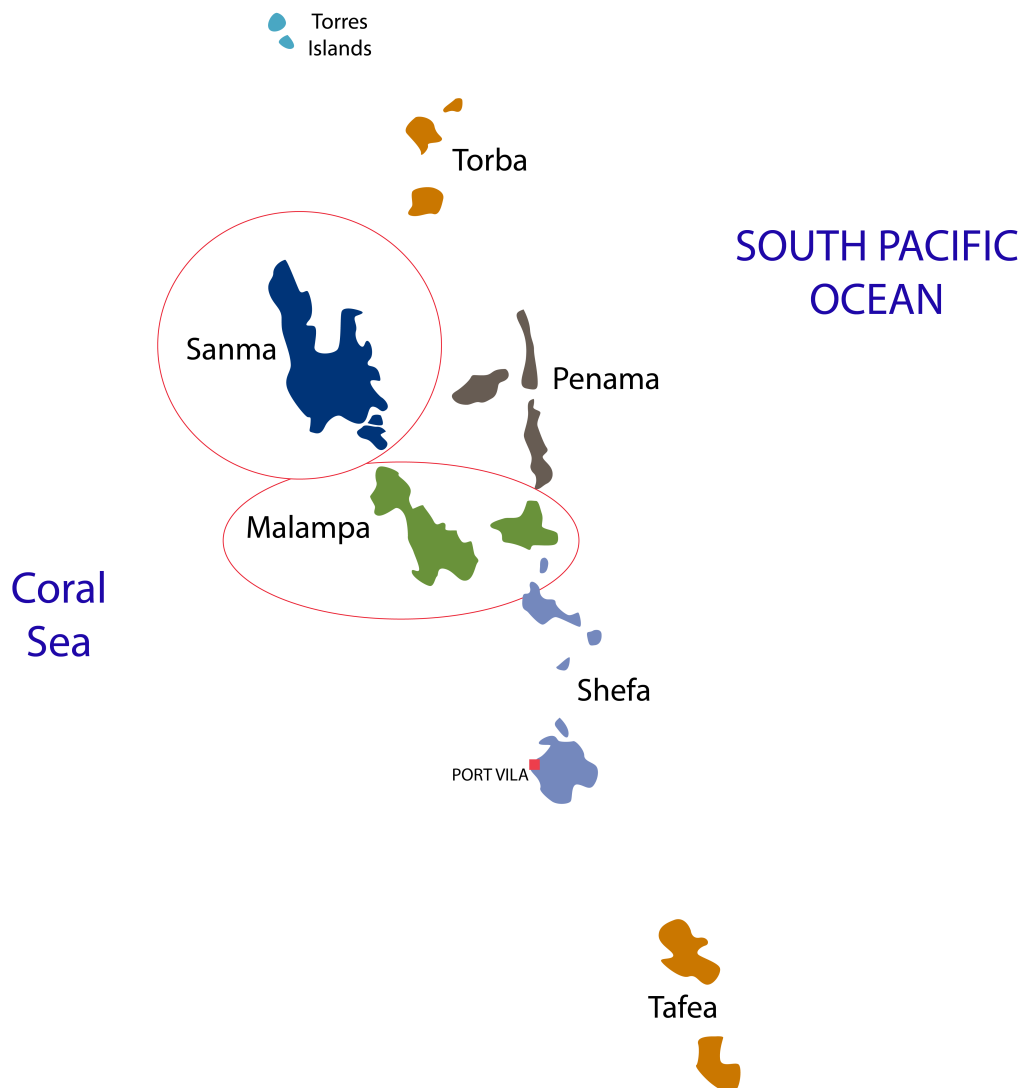
Selection of Vanuatu provinces and communities

Given limited time, resources, and challenges posed by COVID-19 (see limitations Table 4 in Section 2.5), the evaluation team could not engage with community members in all provinces. To identify and select the two provinces we could conduct research in, and engage local community members, we:

- identified possible provinces and communities in which research and engagement could occur
- discussed these internally as an evaluation team, leaning on the insights and existing knowledge and expertise of the team
- considered Vanuatu Government COVID-19 restrictions in place and whether travel and face-to-face engagement would be possible
- asked key stakeholders from MFAT, the New Zealand High Commission in Vanuatu and UNICEF for suggestions and reasons why or why not particular provinces and communities should be considered in this evaluation
- considered available resources and time constraints.

The two provinces selected for the evaluation were Sanma (in navy blue shading) and Malampa (in green shading). The location of these in relation to Port Vila (the capital city of Vanuatu) and other Vanuatu provinces is shown in Figure 10 below.

Figure 10: Vanuatu VWSP evaluation focus areas (Sanma and Malampa Provinces circled)



To select individual communities within the provinces of Sanma and Malampa, we considered an approach and suitable provinces and communities as an evaluation team and then engaged the Department of Water Resources and sought their advice. The Department, with the support of Area Councils identified the two communities using the following criteria:

- Size of scheme (larger and more established, smaller and less developed)
- At least one with close to 40% women on the water committee (i.e. high representation of women involved)
- Local community member access to phones/able to be interviewed
- Different types of drinking water schemes (such as groundwater/ surface water/ rainwater)
- Different types of locations (such as inland and coastal)
- A community that appears to be very successful as well as one that has experienced challenges
- Remote accessibility to community members with current Vanuatu Government COVID-19 restrictions

Evaluation and research principles

In conducting this evaluation, we upheld the [New Zealand Aid Programme’s evaluation principles](#), in particular the need for the evaluation to be utilisation-focused, with the emphasis of evaluation work based on usefulness to intended users. We designed the evaluation plan keeping in mind that “*Evaluation is designed to assess whether interventions are relevant to context, coherent with other interventions, achieve the objectives, contribute to outcomes sought, deliver results in an efficient way and have positive impacts that last*” (NZ Government, 2020, page 4).

Key principles that underpinned the evaluation included:

- A collaborative team approach, working closely with the Vanuatu Water Partnership Team³⁵, and liaising with MFAT where appropriate, drawing on a strengths-based approach to maximise potential and contribution of all evaluation team members
- Seeking to empower, not disempower local communities by aiming to engage them in a culturally appropriate manner and avoid the overuse of negative language around ‘vulnerability’ or failures in water management issues where possible³⁶
- Appreciation of the localisation agenda, and genuinely seeking to involve local community members and local partners in data collection and analysis
- Ensuring feedback is provided to communities consulted, in ways that are meaningful and useful to them
- Embedding consideration of gender equality and social inclusion into all aspects of the evaluation approach and methods
- Building on, and taking into consideration, what has already been done in previous evaluations, audits and monitoring and evaluation processes related to the VWSP

Further to the above principles, we abided by the Pacific Research Evaluation and Research Principles as described in Table 5.

Table 5: Pacific evaluation and research principles³⁷

Principle	Details
Respect for relationships	Ensuring that cultural protocols and processes are followed throughout the research process. Respect for research participants is exercised and grounded in humility, the roles of gatekeepers, village chiefs and elders are appropriately acknowledged and confidentiality is respected.
Respect for knowledge holders	Ensuring that Pacific knowledge, aspirations, and wellbeing are integral to evaluation/research design, research processes, outcomes and outputs. Both research partners and research participants are prioritised as knowledge holders and a participatory approach is adopted in seeking informed consent.
Reciprocity	Ensuring that reciprocity is an integral part of the evaluation/research process and participants, and communities benefit from the research. Reciprocity can encompass gifts, time and service and extends to accessible dissemination of research findings. It also involves key stakeholders and participants being informed of the final results / products (report) that their feedback, insights and knowledge has helped contribute to.

³⁵ The Vanuatu Water Partnership Team consists of MFAT, EWB NZ, UNICEF and DoWR.

³⁶ See Fawcett, D., Pearce, T., Ford, J.D. and Archer, L. (2017) Operationalizing longitudinal approaches to climate change vulnerability assessment, *Global Environmental Change* 45, 79–88, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.gloenvcha.2017.05.002>

³⁷ Source: Massey University, Pacific Research & Policy Centre and the Pasifika@Massey Directorate, *Pacific Research Guidelines and Protocols*, 2017, <https://www.massey.ac.nz/massey/fms/Colleges/College%20of%20Humanities%20and%20Social%20Sciences/pacific-research-and-policy-centre/192190%20PRPC%20Guidelines%202017%20v5.pdf?4D6D782E508E2E272815C5E3E1941390>.

Principle	Details
Holism	Ensuring the interconnected nature of the physical, social, environmental, cultural, and spiritual aspects of research with Pasifika and Pacific communities is understood and acknowledged.
Using evaluation for continuous learning and improvement	Ensuring that the wellbeing of Pasifika and Pacific communities and their environment is of central importance in why and how research is conducted, at the same time as ensuring that the research is rigorous and scholarly. The goal of research beneficence applies to both the integrity of the research process and the potential research outcomes and impact.

Approvals were needed to engage each community by the relevant Provincial Area Administrators, including abiding by agreed engagement and communication processes and local protocols. While the majority of the evaluation team were based in Australia, Lisa Faerua was based in Vanuatu and has extensive experience as a ni-Vanuatu evaluator working with stakeholders and communities in ethical, respectful and culturally appropriate ways.

Limitations and challenges

Table 6 below presents some of the key challenges and limitations faced by the evaluation team during the evaluation of the Vanuatu VWSP.







Table 6: Limitations and challenges

Challenge/limitation	Details
COVID-19 pandemic	COVID-19 impacted the ability of the evaluation team members to conduct site visits to meet face-to-face with key stakeholders in both the capital Port Vila and outlying islands. During the evaluation period, Port Vila, and the provinces of Sanma and Malampa were subject to Vanuatu Government COVID-19 lockdown and restrictions which prevented any members of the evaluation team from travelling and engaging stakeholders face-to-face. To manage this limitation, we conducted interviews remotely, as well as designed a Photo Voice activity to enable us to get direct inputs from the community level.
Selection of communities for stakeholder engagement	Given the resources available, the evaluation team was only able to engage with stakeholders from local communities in two provinces (Sanma and Malampa). Had the evaluation been broader in scope and resourcing, different feedback, findings and recommendations may have been presented by other communities. However, we spoke with key stakeholders about which communities to select, and they all said that any community would be appropriate as they all have successes and challenges to share.
Photo Voice training for community members	We were unable to deliver any face-to-face training to any local community members of Sanma and Malampa provinces as a result of COVID-19. While technical instructions and support could be provided over the phone or online, it would have been preferable to deliver this in person. To manage this limitation, we designed a Photo Voice training package to use with community members, as well as set up a closed Facebook Page. The whole team were trained in Photo Voice prior to engaging with community members.
Community commitments that limited engagement	We found that some community members were not available to discuss the evaluation with us as they were away for gardening activities. This delayed our engagement with them, especially the women of Namorou community. Our other challenges include internet connectivity issues resulting in mobile phones not being reachable.

Methods

The evaluation adopted a mixed methods approach as shown in Table 7 below. Each of these methods is described in more detail below. This Table presents a summary of the evaluation’s phases and methods. Individual methods are then described in greater detail. Project management was ongoing throughout the evaluation.

Table 7: Evaluation Phases and Methods

Phase	Objectives	Methods
	<p>1. Inception</p> <p>Participated in an inception meeting (24 March 2022) and then developed a project plan outlining our evaluation design, data collection methods and sources, stakeholders to be interviewed and interview guides.</p>	<p>Inception meeting involving independent evaluation team and MFAT</p> <p>Initial document scan to enhance knowledge and understanding of the VWSP and key stakeholders involved</p> <p>Developed draft and final versions of Evaluation Plan (Project Plan)</p>
	<p>2. Document review</p> <p>Undertook a review of data and documents in relation to the Vanuatu VWSP provided by MFAT, key implementation partners and other stakeholders to better understand the VWSP, key activities undertaken and to identify existing data gaps.</p>	<p>Conducted review of data and documents provided by key VWSP stakeholders to better understand the activity and its performance in relation to the KEQs</p> <p>Conducted an online scan to identify other relevant information</p> <p>Received and reviewed additional documents from UNICEF</p>
	<p>3. Stakeholder interviews</p> <p>Undertook primary data collection by interviewing stakeholders (individual or group) to collect primary data in relation to the KEQs.</p>	<p>Developed and tested draft stakeholder interview guide</p> <p>Updated interview guide based on initial interviews (pilot)</p> <p>Conducted 21 interviews involving 31 stakeholders across Vanuatu, New Zealand and Australia</p>
	<p>4. Photo Voice</p> <p>Trained community members in Photo Voice, and asked them to take photos of water related infrastructure, systems and processes that are related to benefits, challenges, and opportunities for improvement.</p>	<p>Developed closed Facebook page instructions and some examples</p> <p>Contacted and trained local community members on Photo Voice qualitative data technique</p> <p>Requested community members to take and submit or upload water related infrastructure photos with their own feedback or reactions</p>
	<p>5. Analysis and synthesis</p> <p>Analysed and triangulated the different data and evidence sources and identified emerging themes in relation to the KEQs.</p>	<p>Facilitated internal evaluation team key findings workshops</p> <p>Triangulated findings from document review, stakeholder interviews and online data against KEQs</p>
	<p>6. Reporting</p> <p>Drafted the evaluation report, presented KEQ findings and considerations for future program efforts.</p>	<p>Conducted thematic analysis according to the KEQs</p> <p>Prepared draft evaluation report</p> <p>Prepared final evaluation report</p>

Desktop review of documents

We conducted a review of data provided to us by MFAT and key program stakeholders as well as information found online (n=72 documents) as mentioned in Annex 1. Data was in relation to the VWSP, key stakeholders involved in the VWSP (and other water support activities and initiatives), activity assessments, contracts, monitoring and evaluation reports, and related Vanuatu Government policies and documentation. Interviews with stakeholders identified additional documents which were provided to us for further analysis. The full list of documents reviewed is provided in Annex 1.

Stakeholder interviews

In total, the evaluation team organised and conducted 21 interviews involving 31 stakeholders based in Vanuatu, New Zealand and Australia. Broken down by stakeholder type this included:

- 6 interviews with Funders/ Implementing Partners involving 15 stakeholders
- 3 interviews with the Vanuatu National Government 3 stakeholders
- 6 interviews with the Sanma and Malampa Provincial Governments involving 7 stakeholders
- 5 interviews with Area Administrators and community members from selected areas within Sanma and Malampa involving 5 stakeholders
- 1 interview with an academic and WASH Specialist

Interviews were primarily conducted online over Microsoft Teams although some of the interviews with Area Administrators and community members were conducted over the phone. Interviews generally ran for around 60 minutes and in some cases additional questions or data requests were emailed to selected interviewees by members of the evaluation team. The evaluation team was unable to complete any face-to-face interviews due to COVID-19 restrictions imposed by the Vanuatu Government.

A stakeholder interview guide was developed, trialled and then amended.

Photo Voice

Photo Voice is participatory research methodology first formally articulated by Caroline Wang and Mary Anne Burris (1997), provides a process by which people can *“identify, represent, and enhance their community through a specific photographic technique”*. The method builds on a history of earlier participatory needs evaluation work in healthcare and social health education, on theoretical literature from the fields of feminist theory and documentary photography, and on a number of practical photographic traditions (Wang & Burris, 1997).

Due to COVID-19 implications in Vanuatu, the Photo Voice activity was hindered by lockdowns and poor communication options with community members, however, some community members were engaged in the process and were asked: “Since the water system in your community has been improved through the Vanuatu Water Sector Partnership, can you please take photos of things that have been:

- Benefits from the upgrade of the water system and setting up the water committees
- Challenges you still have related to accessing clean drinking water
- Things you would like improved in the future in relation to water management in your community”.

Data analysis and synthesis

A range of analysis and validation methods were used for the evaluation including:

- Thematic analysis of stakeholder interview transcripts
- Semi-quantitative analysis of stakeholder interview rating/ scalar questions and supporting qualitative data used to contextualise the responses to scale questions
- Sense making workshops with the evaluation team
- Drafts of report provided for review and contribution
- Finalisation of the report considering stakeholder feedback
- Delivery of summary of findings to all interviewees and community stakeholders (in local language).

Evaluation findings

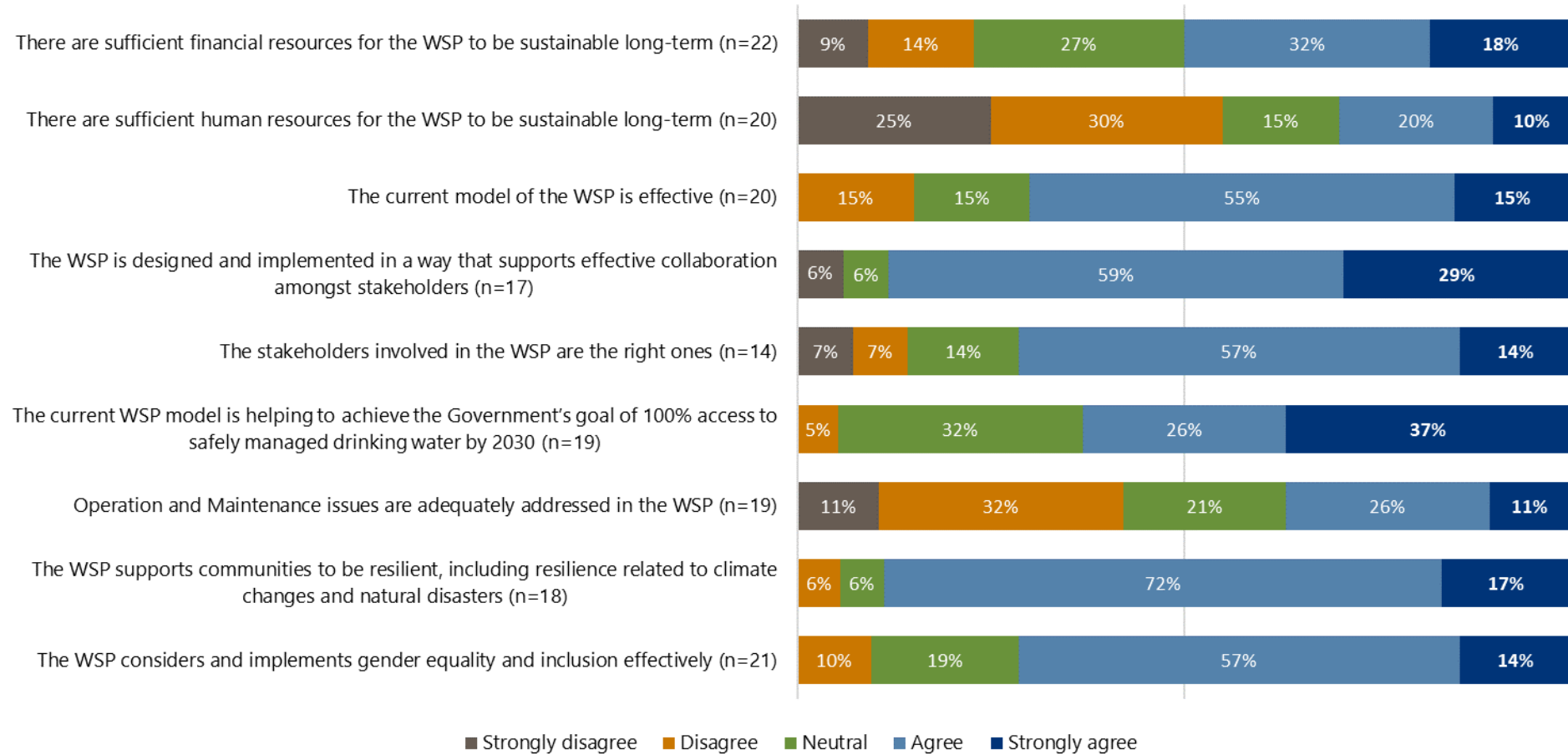
In undertaking the evaluation, we found that interviewees tended to share their experiences and views on a broad range of elements related to the overall water system governance structure in Vanuatu, many of which are co-funded by MFAT. This included the overall NIP and CAP process. As shown in the diagrams above, MFAT's VWSP consists of funding the Department of Water Resource, funding for a number of capacity development, water inventory related, and sector strengthening activities delivered by UNICEF, and EWBZ's capacity development program in the form of 2-4 volunteers on short-term assignments in Vanuatu.

“The impact is huge. Good health, positive impact on children’s health, their education and into their future.” – community interviewee

The following Section providing insights on findings from the evaluation covering these aspects of MFAT's VWSP, as well as some broader reflections on the WASH system itself and the constituent components.

As discussed in the methods Section above, we used a semi-structured interviews to obtain both quantitative and qualitative responses from stakeholders to key elements relevant to the VWSP. For the quantitative element, participants were asked to respond to statements using Likert Scales, with responses ranging from ‘Strongly disagree’ (1), to ‘Strongly agree’ (5). The elements tested using this approach were applied to nine statements, and we have provided an explanation of each of these drawing on quantitative and qualitative data below. The following figure provides an overview of the responses to the quantitative questions, indicating that effective collaboration and support for Vanuatu to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals were considered to be key strengths of the VWSP. A need for increased human resources and improved operation and maintenance systems, investment, and skills were seen in this exercise as key weaknesses of the overall WASH system in Vanuatu. A break down for each question by respondent type is provided in Annex 3.

Figure 11: WSP Stakeholder Interview Rating Responses



Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

We also considered interview data (21 interviews involving 31 stakeholders) document analysis, supplementary online research and follow up emails and questions with stakeholders. The results of this analysis is provided in the following sections related to key strengths, and opportunities for improvement followed by recommendations.

Key Strengths of the VWSP

The following key strengths emerged from the evaluation:

System strengthening approach of the VWSP

The structure of the VWSP and the way in which the funds are delivered predominately directly into the DoWR is considered by stakeholders to be a great strength, and has enabled the Vanuatu Government to have ownership and decision-making power critical to the success of the program. Feedback from Vanuatu national and provincial government stakeholders suggests this is important as it allows Vanuatu people to help shape their own development objectives and priorities when it comes to WASH and the structure of the VWSP models enables local communities to determine and put forward important WASH-related projects under their DWSSPs that should be considered for design and development. The structure of the VWSP has allowed provinces and communities to be actively involved in identifying and promoting their needs and priorities and putting forward DWSSPs that reflect these and require additional support and funding under the CAP.

Flexible funding modality

Interviewees reported that having flexibility in how the funding provided from MFAT was managed and used based on need and some changing circumstances (for example, Tropical Cyclone Harold) was one of its greatest strengths as a funding modality, and rare for an internationally funded development program. While there could be more accountability in terms of how funding and non-funding decisions are made and communicated (see Recommendations Section of this report) the structure of the VWSP, and the requirement for DWSSPs to be developed, enables local Vanuatu provinces and communities to identify their water access gaps and needs, suggest actions that will help overcome gaps and challenges and put these forward for consideration and potential funding.

Overarching governance framework

The establishment and implementation of the NIP and CAP is considered to be highly positive by all interviewees in that it reduces political interference, increases local (Vanuatu government) ownership of the VWSP and also enables multiple donors and implementing organisations to fit into a broader strategy rather than just supporting and/or funding ad hoc disconnected projects. While MFAT has been the sole donor of the VWSP since its design and implementation, the structure of the VWSP is not restrictive and could easily incorporate new donors and implementing organisations becoming involved both alongside or in place of MFAT and the existing implementing partners. Given that multiple other donors have funded WASH-related projects in Vanuatu in recent years, opportunities exist for the Vanuatu Water Sector Partnership to engage with these other donors to help coordinate activities and funding under the NIP to ensure that Vanuatu people have access to clean and safe water by 2030.

Bottom-up process for identifying WASH investments

The process of communities developing their own community focused DWSSPs and having these be the basis for future WASH infrastructure prioritisation and funding is seen as a great strength of the program. Stakeholders interviewed have expressed support for this aspect of the VWSP and wish to see it continue. This is particularly the case because residents of local communities tend to be more aware of challenges, gaps and/or current and planned WASH-related projects as they relate to their local communities and are interested in contributing to their ongoing development. Furthermore, in some communities it has enabled a wide variety of local stakeholders including village chiefs, elders, women and/or people with disabilities to become involved in the process and contribute to the design and development of WASH-related projects that can lead to their local communities having increased access to safely managed drinking water and/or increasing their resilience to climate change. This process has also made it easier for the DoWR to manage requests for funding, as well as offers to support WASH in Vanuatu.

"I see the project today, the local contractor can construct really well, they can really build to a professional standard compared to the past." - Interviewee

Selection process for funding community DWSSP projects, based on risk

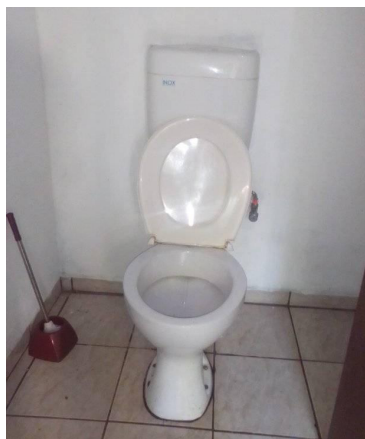


Figure 12: Indoor bathrooms and toilets as a result of funding under the CAP, linked to local level DWSSPs. Source: community member from Lonnoc Community

While the DWSSP process is understood by all stakeholders to generally be a very solid process, there is also recognition that the prioritisation process (for funding capital works) needs to be strengthened and there could be increased transparency on why some projects are funded while others are not. This relates to both projects that are funded and those that are not and the rationale for or against selection and funding decisions. One suggestion from an interviewee was that some criteria for prioritising needs need to be established at the provincial and community levels, and then the risk ranking can come later (after that local prioritisation process). Should a process along these lines be developed, then it was suggested that more capacity building with Area Administrators around prioritisation would need to occur to ensure that submitted DWSSPs are more likely to adhere to any guidelines and assessment criteria developed and implemented. However, DWSSP submission, review and assessment criteria should be the same for all communities as they are competing for funds.

"Before there was only one tap, With clean and accesses to clean water in the community. Now there is an increased number of taps which has resulted in less time to collect water, and women having more time to do their gardens; people planning to have a good toilet with access to this water; People using water to build with, and improved health, good hygiene due to good showers." - Interviewee

One community member explained that one of the benefits they had experienced as a result of the VWSP included was that their water system had been upgraded. They have now built indoor bathrooms and toilets (an example of which is shown in Figure 12) which has been a big change in their lifestyle. Previously, they had to collect water in a bucket for bathing and their ablutions. Now, they are able to just turn on the taps for running water and the flushing of toilets.

Strength of some Community Water Committees

"We need to continue to support capacity development and empower government at the provincial level. We need to continue building, and going the next step. Don't need to build new systems, but use them." - Interviewee

In one community it was reported that children are taught at primary school about the importance of safe, clean and easily accessible water and the Water Committee is taking leadership, including visits every Monday for quick progress updates and monthly reporting on collection of water fees. In this case, other community members see progress and have access to clean and safe drinking water and, as a result, are happy to continue financially supporting it by way of ongoing payment of their water fees.

In one village there were reports of youth being involved in water management activities, maintaining and keeping water sources clean and clear of debris, and empowering youth to manage water responsibly.

The function of Area Administrators and their role in coordinating WASH activities

Area Administrators are key Government officials linking the provincial and national government to the communities on the ground. Their role includes community profiling and helping to develop plans (DWSSPs and other community plans) for Area Councils. One interviewee explained that "the Area Administrators work well with communities, they prioritise area plans to include in the budgets."

Opportunities for Area Administrators to further develop and/or increase their impact include coordination and understanding of community priorities and aligning themselves with broader provincial level strategic governance structures. Often, they live in local communities themselves, or were raised in them, so they are more personally familiar with WASH related challenges than stakeholders that might be based in urban centres such as Port Vila and Luganville.

One implementing partner explained that they don't go to any communities until the community has an approved DWSSP. They continued that "It works really well in this partnership - coordination occurs with the Area Administrator... in this partnership, one of important things is to strengthen donor and government to the province. In the past the Area Administrator said that the NGOs used to come but didn't know what was going on, but now it is better connected. The process is coordinated and we submit all our plans to the Area Administrators."

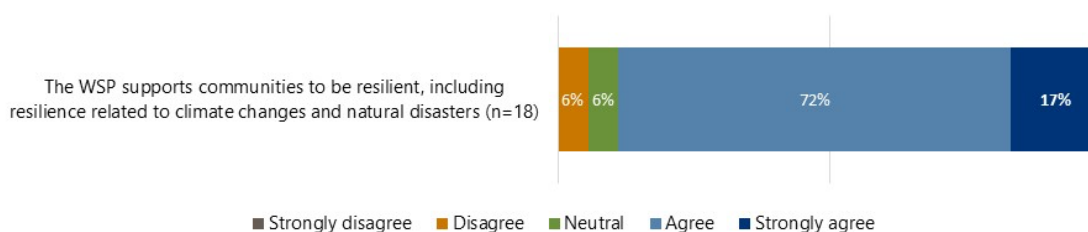
Government documentation and access to policies and documents

Documentation related to the governance of Vanuatu’s water sector (policies, strategies, laws and legal documents) are accessible (often publicly) and useful to stakeholders. Many of these documents are accessible via the DoWR website, and can be easily found and downloaded³⁸. Vanuatu has a wide range and number of policy and planning documents, and as one interviewee reported, “DWSSP documentation is excellent in relative terms. On their [DoWR] server there are hundreds of plan templates that have been filled out, which is not the case in a lot of other comparable countries.” One interviewee who works closely with Government and has accessed financial data reported that “there is a high degree of financial transparency and a significant amount of accessible paperwork which shows how funding is distributed to provinces”. This documentation could potentially be very useful for other stakeholders such as donors or implementing partners that may be considering funding or supporting the design and development of WASH-related project(s) in Vanuatu. Having the documentation available may assist them to better understand how the VWSP is structured, what has already been achieved, who is involved and help them identify gaps where they can provide support and add to what has already been achieved.

Improving community resilience

Interviewees that the evaluation team engaged with were asked to rate their level of agreement to which the VWSP supports communities to be resilient including resilience related to climate change and natural disasters. Almost all stakeholders interviewed (89%) either agreed (72%) or strongly agreed (17%) that the VWSP supports communities to be resilient, including resilience related to climate changes and natural disasters as shown in Figure 130 below.

Figure 13: Supporting community resilience



Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

Key reasons for this included:

- The fact that training and the development of water safety plans which consider climate change and resilience risks and strategies to mitigate them are part of the approach of the VWSP.
- Projects and equipment (such as tie downs for tanks, straps and gravity feed – secure lids) that have been designed and developed that help mitigate the impact of cyclones.
- The identification of future projects that can help further increase resilience (for example, bore holes).
- Using different sources of water for different activities (such as using water pumps for drinking water and spring water by the sea for laundry purposes).
- Newly designed infrastructure being designed to adhere to Department natural disaster standards and requirements.
- Communities implementing strategies to help protect their sources of drinking water (such as disconnecting water pipes when it rains to prevent acid rain from getting into water storage tanks or only allowing community members to use the water pump every two days, in an effort to conserve water for everyone).

³⁸ “The DoWR tracks and documents the CAP process in their Information System <https://exchange.riscon.solutions/>. The system tracks the CAP process from the initial request for assistance from communities, through to construction completion and monitoring. The DoWR has struggled to keep the database up to date under staff constraints and across multiple provinces. Nonetheless, the database provides a level of transparency on the CAP process while also providing the means to track progress towards National Sustainable Development Plan targets and support budget and planning.” (Foster and Cunningham, 2022)

- The Department taking actions to identify areas that are more vulnerable to climate change and/or natural disasters that can negatively impact water systems and prioritising their support to these communities because they are most vulnerable.

Feedback from respondents who disagreed (6%) or were neutral (6%) suggested that some of the water projects implemented under the VWSP had already been damaged by cyclones or questioned whether project planning decisions really are taken with a ‘disaster mindset.’

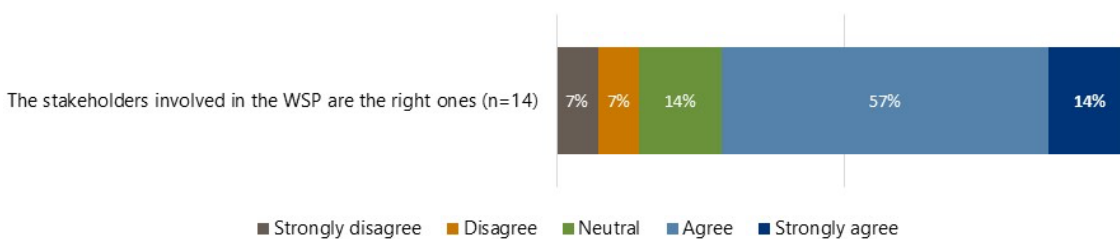
No respondents strongly disagreed with this statement.

The VWSP supports the “right” stakeholders

The VWSP model is a complex one involving multiple stakeholders at international, national, provincial ,area council and community levels. While it cannot be expected that all stakeholders will be familiar, and knowledgeable, about all the other stakeholders involved and how the VWSP has been designed and implemented, feedback provided to the evaluation team suggests the ‘right’ stakeholders have been engaged and they bring diverse skills, knowledge and experience to the VWSP. There also exists high levels of agreement that effective collaboration amongst the different stakeholders is supported through the design of the model which has assisted progress towards achieving the VWSP’s outcomes.

Nearly three-quarters of interviewed stakeholders (71%) suggested that the stakeholders involved in the VWSP are the right ones as shown in Figure 140.

Figure 14: Engaging the ‘right’ stakeholders under the VWSP



Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

Feedback indicated they understood the context and VWSP processes under which they were operating and had a diverse mix of expertise and skills across various sectors including the environment, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and others. As a result, projects under the VWSP have already been developed and guidance has been provided as to where other installations or activities, such as toilets, pigs and other animals, in a community should best be positioned in relation to water projects. Other projects are currently being developed and others are still going through required planning and approval processes.

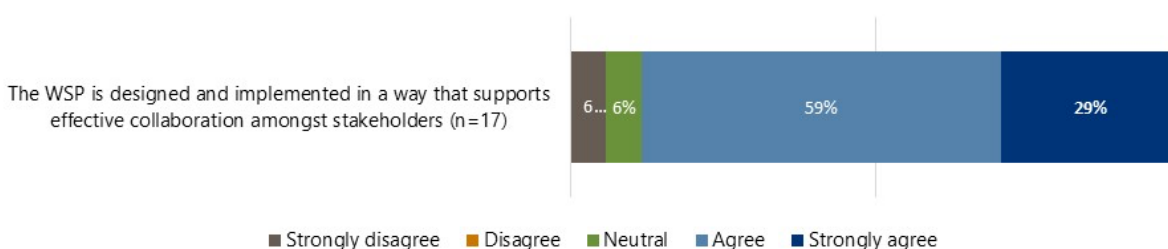
Feedback from those who disagreed (7%) or strongly disagreed (7%) suggested that project planners should also be members of their local Provincial Advisory Council (PAC), some stakeholders lack specific water expertise and skills and some projects have commenced but remain incomplete.

No specific feedback was obtained from those who suggested they were neutral (14%).

Supporting collaboration amongst stakeholders

There was a very high level of agreement (88%) amongst interviewed stakeholders that the VWSP is designed and implemented in a way that supports effective collaboration amongst stakeholders as shown in Figure 150.

Figure 15: Supporting effective collaboration amongst stakeholders



Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

Feedback suggested that collaboration had regularly occurred, has involved various stakeholders (such as community members, chiefs, government officials, contractors and volunteers), and that different stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities. Different implementing organisations are involved to help develop projects and many communities are taking ownership of projects and contributing their own local resources to specific projects. Amongst stakeholders who represent national and international level organisations/ groups, it was noted that an approach has been implemented that effectively allows donors and implementing organisations to collaborate but also provides opportunities for other donors or government departments to provide additional funds and/or technical assistance.

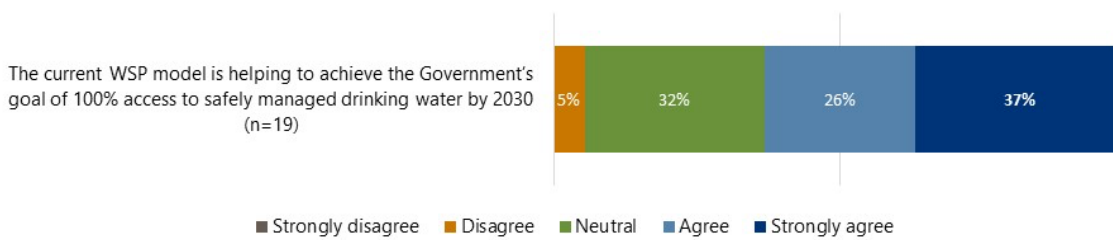
Amongst the stakeholders who suggested they strongly disagreed (6%) or were neutral (6%) a common challenge was projects not working as intended shortly after they had been completed. Key issues put forward included:

- Directives from the Department of Water Resources have been followed more closely than those of the local Area Councils.
- Requirements for inspections at certain stages of the construction process.
- A need for greater monitoring throughout the entire project construction process to ensure they work as intended.

Achieving 100% access to safely managed drinking water by 2030

When asked to assess whether the current VWSP model is helping to achieve the Government's goal of 100% access to safely managed water by 2030, almost two-thirds of respondents (63%) suggested they agreed or strongly agreed with the statement as shown in Figure 16 below.

Figure 16: Achieving 100% access to safely managed drinking water by 2030



Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

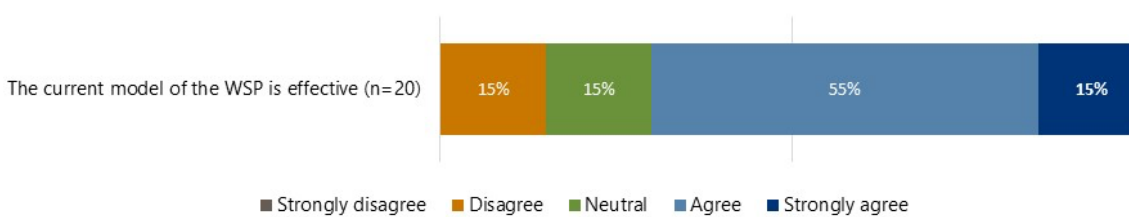
Interviewees noted that progress has already been made and will continue as a result of a community-led bottom-up approach. Already, positive benefits of having more and cleaner water, such as reduced diarrhoea were reported by community leaders.³⁹

Design and support from the VWSP

With the VWSP having been in operation since 2017 there has now been sufficient time for key stakeholders to be engaged, processes and systems implemented and for activities to take place. It is important for implementing organisations, donors and other key stakeholders to reflect on the VWSP's current design (both on paper and also in terms of how it has been implemented on the ground), how effective current systems and processes are, to identify gaps and build on the progress that has already been achieved.

60% of all respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that the current model of the VWSP is effective as shown in Figure 17.

Figure 17: Effectiveness of the current VWSP model



³⁹ For more discussion on the causes of diarrhoea in Vanuatu, see: Foster et al (2019) Does the source of water for piped supplies affect child health? Evidence from rural Vanuatu, Accessed at: <https://waponline.com/washdev/article/9/3/591/66732/Does-the-source-of-water-for-piped-supplies-affect>

Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

A key reason includes the partnership model being flexible and strong enough to effectively engage and communicate with and to multiple stakeholders at different governance levels including the national, provincial and community levels. Community decision making processes and ownership are enabled and encouraged under the current structure of the VWSP. Often, as a result, local community Water Committees buy-in to the VWSP approach, and have an understanding they will provide support to achieving what has been discussed and agreed amongst members.

Other aspects of the VWSP and its approach that were well-liked and/or seen as innovative include:

- The NIP and CAP components of the program which could help coordinate relevant projects and engage donors.
- The inclusive nature of the model which simultaneously enables top-down National Government direction and planning alongside community participants to identify local needs and propose relevant water projects that will help meet their water and sanitation needs.
- The flexibility of the VWSP to be able to cater for, and respond to, unexpected challenges such as COVID-19 and recent natural disasters.
- The technical assistance (TA) provided by UNICEF over the duration of the VWSP.

Amongst those respondents who suggested they disagreed (15%) or were neutral (15%), the main feedback was that the current VWSP model is seen as a good starting point but there is certainly room for growth and improvement. Key areas in which the model could be improved include:

- Increased engagement with and between provincial and community (area council) stakeholders
- The need to identify, train and involve more local community members to assist with the development, operation, maintenance, and repairs of water projects
- Improving the process of how funds are allocated to particular water projects, to particular communities (sometimes at the expense of others) and enhancing the overall budget available for new projects to be developed.

There were no respondents who strongly disagreed with the statement ‘the current model of the VWSP is effective.’

As explained by Foster and Cunningham (2022) in their recent assessment of the CAP and the way in which it is financed:

“The CAP is an important pillar for the Government of Vanuatu to progress their 2030 target of universal access to safe water supplies. The CAP is uniquely Vanuatu-owned, being developed and championed by DoWR staff. The program is an important mechanism for the government to prioritise their limited funding to locations where water safety and security poses a significant risk to human health. The eligibility criteria for securing CAP funds contribute to sustainable operation and maintenance. Water committees need to be registered, trained, have completed a DWSSP, and completed their own water supply improvements before being considered for external funding. As such, the CAP integrates investment top-down and bottom-up and provides a useful model for other nations to learn from.”⁴⁰

⁴⁰ Foster and Cunningham (2022) –Personal Communication: publication forthcoming

Opportunities for further strengthening

Based on the analysis conducted and the feedback provided from key stakeholders, and analysis of evaluation reports, the evaluation team has identified a number of areas of the VWSP that actions could be taken to strengthen in. These are discussed in more detail below.

Delays and human resource limitations

Interviewees identified challenges related to delays related to human resource limitations because and the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, most of the EWBZ volunteers had to leave Vanuatu in 2020 which meant that the provincial level capacity development aspect of various WASH related projects were stalled for two years. Even as of 30 June 2020, Vanuatu had not reopened to international visitor which had implications for this evaluation team's ability to travel and engage with key local stakeholders. Implementing partners found that the key challenges to their work were due to weather and logistics, "but mostly the weather" which impacts construction, delivering materials and managing capital investments overall. Other aspects which resulted in delays and unexpected changes included cultural events such as marriage or funeral ceremonies in local communities.

The 2022 Water Sector Programme Annual Report identified that given Vanuatu did not experience significant localised impacts from COVID-19 in 2020-2021, the lack of improved staffing could not be attributed to these. Rather, it is suggested that "Three possible reasons include: absenteeism, lack of capacity, and inefficient use of human resources" was behind human resources challenges experienced within DoWR as part of the VWSP.⁴¹

Achieving 100% access to safely managed water by 2030

Despite the positive reports that the VWSP is significantly supporting Vanuatu's move towards 100% safely managed water supply for all by 2030, it was also noted that the goal is 'ambitious.' Different considerations may need to be taken into account including:

How local communities primarily use water aside from drinking and cooking.

How population growth is considered in achieving this target.

Addressing the gap in how much water local communities can purify for safe consumption.

Several interviewees suggested that the year 2030 was too close by to achieve the objectives outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Key reasons for this included:

- An insufficient number of projects are being put forward and then developed through the DWSSP process (one stakeholder suggested that each community might need up to 60 projects developed per annum to help achieve this).
- The fact that many Vanuatu people and communities still lack reliable access to safe drinking water at present.
- Administration and operational challenges such as limited finances; suitable human resources who have relevant technical expertise, skills, and knowledge; and implementation delays.
- A need for increased collaboration and enhanced coordination between the donors and implementing organisations alongside an improved community water project prioritisation and decision-making process.

"Most community water systems fail due to a lack of regular maintenance by the water committee." - Interviewee

"At present they have one [water management] field officer per Province but we need more field officers to help (2 to 3 field officers)" - Interviewee

⁴¹ MFAT, DoWR, UNICEF (2022) Water Sector Programme Annual Report, February 2022

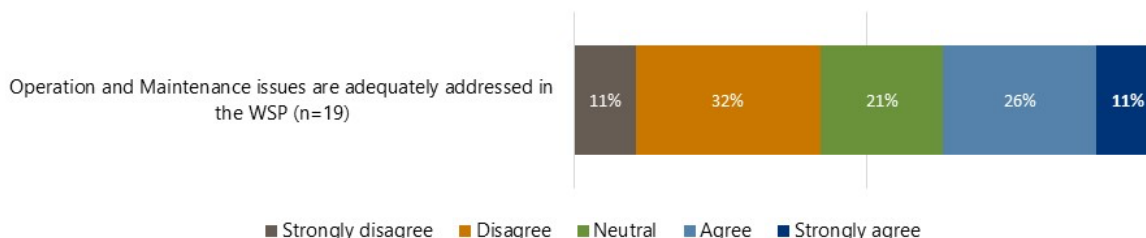
Operation and maintenance of WASH infrastructure and clearer responsibilities related to ongoing funding for O&M and when it may be required

One interviewee explained that more resources for O&M are needed at the provincial level suggesting “We need a better strategy that works better than the community water committees and an annual maintenance fund for the Water Department for all of the Province. At present, budgets for community DWSSPs tend to focus on the costs associated with the design and development of new WASH-related projects but don’t tend to factor in ongoing O&M costs. In many cases, it may be more resource efficient to allocate funding to O&M than having to do large scale repairs when damage is significant or potentially have to design and develop a new project.

The evaluation team received reports of system failures, with one interviewee explaining that they had observed seven out of 10 new systems only lasting three to five years before starting to fail and requiring significant maintenance.

In relation to the statement that operation and maintenance issues are adequately addressed in the VWSP, respondent ratings were quite spread out across the rating options. Fewer respondents agreed (26%) or strongly agreed (11%) to those that disagreed (32%) or strongly disagreed (11%) while 21% were neutral as is shown in Figure 18.

Figure 18: Addressing operation and maintenance (O&M) issues



Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

Amongst those respondents who agreed or strongly agreed they cited:

- Evidence of maintenance having occurred such as to fix damaged water pipes as well as
- Works having been undertaken to re-design and/or upgrade old systems.

In addition, it was noted that some local level water committees are collecting payments from community members on a regular basis (every three months was a common period) which have been re-invested in these communities to support the design and development of additional water projects. An example mentioned was the installation of household solar systems.

Issues affecting operation and maintenance issues being addressed, as noted by respondents, include inadequate resources for the Department of Water Resources and other key stakeholders to sufficiently perform these tasks. In some communities, no plans exist to address known issues and not each area council has a water specialist serving on it. In some cases, not having a person with specialist technical skills, has led to a culture developing whereby communities and area councils expect the government to address all operations and maintenance issues as they are unable (or unwilling) to do it themselves. A need to strengthen compliance and enforcement policies was also suggested including the payment of fines. In relation to the NIP, it was noted that water committees only receive training in the post-project stage and there is not sufficient funding for them to operationalise O&M plans and DWSSPs.

Neutral respondents indicated that progress had been achieved in terms of the development of some water projects, but additional resources (for example, plumbers), budgets and infrastructure (including GGGI solar pumps) were needed. This would help assist communities to increase their access to safe water supplies as well as empowering them to maintain and, when required, respond to problems if they arise.

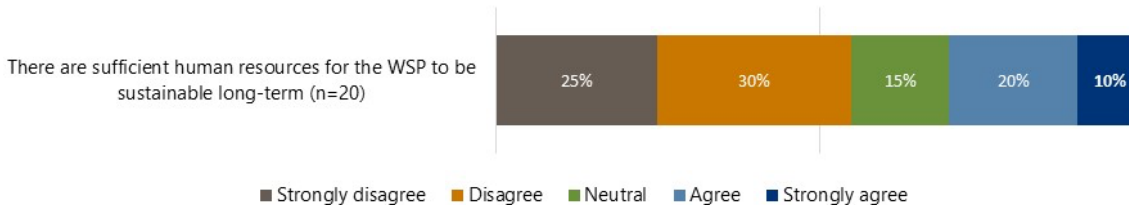
Capacity building and increasing number of provincial staff and community members, including O&M, plumbers, engineers and coordinators.

In some communities, people (especially men) leave their homes and work internationally or elsewhere in Vanuatu for seasonal work and the opportunity to earn a larger income than they could in their local community (if enough jobs exist). This has been reported as reducing capacity within communities to operate and maintain WASH infrastructure as people with sufficient technical knowledge and skills may not always be present, or available, to undertake O&M activities when required.

One interviewee suggested that the Water Plumbers Network needs further strengthening and for expertise to be available in remote communities. The evaluation team received suggestions from multiple interviewees for key VWSP implementing partners to consider identifying and training women in local communities to undertake O&M activities as they don't tend to travel for seasonal work and have vested interests in the ongoing health and safety of their families and other community members.

More than half (55%) of the interviewed stakeholders who either disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that there are sufficient human resources for the VWSP to be sustainable long-term as shown in Figure 19.

Figure 19: Sufficient human resources



Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

Key reasons for their disagreement include having limited numbers of people involved in provincial and community level water activities under the VWSP as well as having limited numbers of people with the technical expertise (such as engineers and plumbers) required to build, maintain and/or repair water projects in different communities. Administration and implementation issues were also identified including:

- A backlog of water projects that have not been completed – one stakeholder indicated that only around 10% of around 2,000 water projects had been completed due to social and political challenges
- An ongoing application to the Vanuatu Skills Partnership (TVET)⁴² to help train local community members to become community plumbers which has not yet been approved or finalised
- Communities having to wait for a skilled engineer from Port Vila to visit their area, in order to conduct assessments of any potential new projects that are put forward under that particular community's DWSSP.

Amongst those who agreed or strongly agreed (30%) their feedback suggested that particular communities have access to people with the technical skills that are required in order to maintain water projects and repair them if required. The involvement of various community members in looking after water projects, ensuring people don't cut or redirect water pipes was also seen as being positive. In some cases, projects developed and implemented in communities under the VWSP have led to additional income generating opportunities, such as through agriculture, which has meant community members are able and willing to pay their monthly water fees. It was noted that some community members really saw the benefit of VWSP projects only once they had been able to generate some income as a result of the project.

A further 15% were neutral but the majority of these respondents highlighted the shortage of staff – both operational and technical – as a reason for their response.

"We need to help the communities to achieve sustainable water systems. This will involve building the capacity of communities to maintain their systems, manage the DWSSPs, and making sure they are successfully implemented. Currently we are focussed on plumbing training and management, but we don't have resources for a few years down the track or monitoring mechanisms to make sure they are maintaining the system." - Interviewee

⁴² Information about the Vanuatu Skills Partnership can be found at: <http://www.vanuatutvet.org.vu/>

Increased transparency of decisions related to which communities are funded and prioritised.

Feedback from interviewees suggests that the process by which community DWSSPs are developed and then submitted to the Provincial and National Governments could be more transparent in terms of how decisions are taken, why they are taken and how communities are informed if WASH projects will be developed or not. The Area Councils play a very important role in deciding which projects are put forward for a funding request, and are prioritised at the local level. Concerns were raised that after developing the DWSSPs, communities' expectations were high and if there were delays in their plan being supported financially, then disappointment and disenfranchisement can ensue amongst some community and provincial government members. Delays are understood to be partly a result of capacity and human resourcing issues at the various levels of the system as well as limited funding meaning that not all projects put forward under all community DWSSPs can be selected and funded.

With respect to transparency, there is room to improve the communication processes around sharing and explaining why certain communities and infrastructure projects have been prioritised for funding and implementation, to support inter- and intra-community harmony. Additionally, transparency could be increased by communicating with and informing local communities, and relevant provincial stakeholders, of the stage of the review and assessment process that their local DWSSP is currently at. There is an important role for the Area Administrator to play in this process, given they coordinate and support a number of communities. For example, DWSSP updates and decisions could be relayed back to Area Administrators who could then inform other key local stakeholders and explain why particular decisions have been taken.

Financial sustainability at the local level

Interviewees explained that managing WASH-related infrastructure and projects, once installed in local communities, requires financial support to help maintain and efficiently and safely operate. As a result, the regular collection of water fees from community members is very important in order to help maintain existing infrastructure (for example, community taps or wells) and ensure new WASH projects can be developed. The evaluation team discovered that gathering fees from residents in many communities can be challenging, especially if water services are disrupted due to a severed pipe, natural disasters occur and/or if people have financial challenges. Furthermore, the strength of water committees, and their ability to regularly collect fees from local community members and/or users of WASH infrastructure, varies significantly from community to community. One interviewee mentioned that in some communities there exists a "dependency mindset" whereby in situations where WASH infrastructure is broken or needs upgrading, the community asks (or expects) the government to fund it rather than having some form of financial sustainability at the local level. However, this is a challenge not unique to WASH-related development programs in Vanuatu.



Figure 20: Example of exposed water pipe, photo taken in Sanma province

As shown below in Figure 20, one community member explained that on some occasions water pipes are exposed, and

sometimes people cut the pipe if they can't see it. While this can happen both on purpose and accidentally, this can mean that the water system is disturbed and can restrict people's ability to access safe water sources. As a result of challenges being identified with above ground water pipes, now the pipes in this village are being buried and are at less risk of being cut (either accidentally or intentionally).

One specific challenge was raised with respect to water pipes being broken, especially when they are exposed above ground and not buried by an interviewee. The water committee in this context is working to bury the pipes so that it reduces the likelihood of them breaking or being cut. When water pipes are buried they are less exposed to the sun which can cause

general wear and tear. For a program like the VSWP to be accepted, implemented and to be successful, it was also suggested that community education around the location of pipes and how to treat or repair them is needed. Furthermore, it is important that adequate revenues are being collected to fix and maintain pipes as needed. For example, pipes should not be laid in areas where crop farming is likely to regularly occur on a

"I think there needs to be improvements in how communities get selected for capital works." - Interviewee

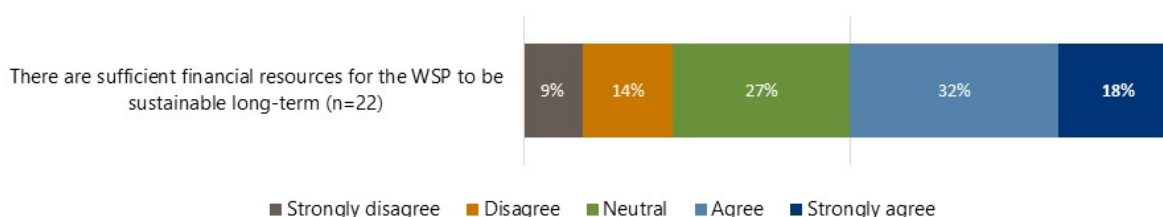
seasonal basis as there is a risk that a farmer may accidentally cut or damage the pipes when digging, planting and tending to his/her crops.

Adequacy of investment in WASH in Vanuatu overall

The evaluation team was asked to determine whether activities being implemented under the VWSP are making the best use of funding. Although a cost-benefit analysis (CBA) or value for money (VFM) assessment was not conducted, we collected ratings assessments and qualitative feedback from interviewees on whether there are sufficient financial and human resources for the VWSP to be sustainable long-term.

Half the interviewed stakeholders (50%) who provided a rating response suggested they agreed or strongly agreed that there are sufficient financial resources for the VWSP to be sustainable long-term, and 27% were neutral in their views as shown in Figure 21.

Figure 21: Perception of financial resources



Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

Key reasons for their feedback include:

- Various communities across Vanuatu raising their own funds to contribute to needed projects and ongoing maintenance (one stakeholder noted that there were approximately 500,000 Vatu worth of funds in the account [approx. \$6,730NZD]).
- Regular meetings taking place involving the VWSP Chairman and other key stakeholders during which the topic of financial sustainability is discussed.
- Vanuatu having a long-term water sector partnership with the New Zealand Government.
- The importance of this evaluation for identifying key aspects of the VWSP’s financial sustainability and any challenges.
- Funding being provided to support a wide variety of activities and components of the VWSP, such as capacity building, rather than just business as usual on an ad hoc basis where particular projects might be funded by different funders and/or organisations.
- Area Councils submitting WASH project proposals to their Provincial Area Committees which can then be put forward to the National Advisory Committee for consideration and potential implementation.
- Already funded projects being well used and maintained by members of local communities.
- Local communities having established Water Committees which then collect fees from local residents or water users to help with ongoing operation and maintenance costs.

Amongst those who disagreed or strongly disagreed (23%), their feedback suggested there are challenges with:

- Overcoming pandemics like COVID-19 and natural disasters which limited the ability of donors to design and develop new water projects under the NIP.
- Not having sufficient funds to help local community members maintain, and if needed, repair water-related projects that require repairs.
- Limited funds being made available to communities that flow down from the Department of Water Resources.
- Limited income generating opportunities for residents regional or remote communities which restricts their ability to pay monthly water fees and to contribute to new water projects.
- Community members who have some training and/or skills in fields like engineering, building and maintenance leaving their communities in search of employment opportunities and, as a result, not being able to carry out tasks like fixing leaking water pipes.
- Slow review approval processes for new projects that are centralised in Port Vila rather than in the communities which limit the involvement of provinces and communities.

Diversifying the range of people who can fix WASH infrastructure

One interviewee explained that when men leave villages to conduct work for payment in another location, including overseas, this can leave the women, and especially elders behind to look after the WASH infrastructure. However, while it was suggested they would often be willing to provide support, as they recognise the importance of the infrastructure in their community, they often lack the technical skills or knowledge to do so. Feedback from interviewees suggested that training programs should be designed and offered to women who are likely to remain in their local communities and have an interest in being up skilled, and in some circumstances, people with disabilities could also be trained. Training programs may need to be repeated at times, but could focus on helping people learn skills related to plumbing, engineering, general operations and repairs, coordinating and administering local water committees (including book keeping to support the ongoing collection and accurate recording of water fees from community members) and monitoring and evaluation activities and data collection.

If training programs do not include these women, then the communities can be left without sufficient expertise during these times and as more time elapses the issues with WASH infrastructure can become more serious and require more time and financial resources to repair or replace properly. Often, it takes considerable time (and cost) for an outside person with such knowledge and skills to be identified and arranged to visit the community and often by then the repair issues are more serious than when the issue was first identified.

An interviewee suggested that connections be maintained and grown with the Plumbers’ Network throughout Vanuatu.⁴³

Tendering processes need to move to being delivered, monitored and reported on through online systems

Feedback from an interviewed implementing partner suggested that they would like to see more automation in the tendering process, and ways to apply for contracts to be submitted, edited and processed online. They also mentioned that associated payments (invoicing) has been slow pointing to a need for more human resources in the procurement space, but possibly also better systems. Suggestions from provincial and community interviewees indicate that increased transparency around DWSSP project funding decisions, reasons for decisions for or against DWSSP project funding decisions and an ability to monitor the progress of submitted DWSSPs would be appreciated and would also help increase accountability and transparency.

“The Department decides on the list of least and most vulnerable communities based on the water safety assessment. The most vulnerable are prioritised.” - Interviewee

“There needs to be government support after the handover [of the water system]. After the project has been implemented, there is dancing and drinking Kava, everyone happy.... after that we leave the community but people don’t know who will support them...is it rural water supply, or the water committee?” - Interviewee

Stronger focus on climate change implications

When asked whether or not the VWSP was contributing to community resilience, especially in terms of managing climate change related disasters and pandemics, one community interviewee explained that they would like to see a greater focus on climate change threats in the VWSP. They explained “In our village – there is fear that there might be a bigger flooding, we need to work together to mitigate climate risks, to protect the resources that we invest in the communities, we need to work across sectors, learn how to mitigate risks, and manage the risks and help the communities to adapt.” With Vanuatu being one of the world’s most at risk countries when it comes to natural disasters, protecting against climate change will become increasingly important in the design and development of future WASH-related infrastructure as well as the upgrading of existing infrastructure.

⁴³ At provincial level the Malampa province is partnering with TVET to do plumbers training for plumbers in MALAMPA and to establish the plumber’s network in MALAMPA Province.

Monitoring and evaluation processes need more feedback loops

An implementing partner expressed concern that monitoring and evaluation (M&E) data wasn't being used to its full extent, and communities are not providing data and information regularly. One interviewee suggested that M&E processes could be improved at the provincial level, and that it would be good to have more technical M&E expertise in each province. They also noted that in some communities monitoring "does not really happen". Sometimes the provincial officers need to go to the community and re-check the data provided. With the overall VWSP model being subject to independent evaluation, it is important for M&E stakeholders, to have access to accurate community and provincial level data alongside national and international data.

A community member explained that the committee monitors the water system through meetings that they have as a committee, as well as meetings with the whole community where they discuss water pressure and the need to regularly clean the water tanks. One interviewee suggested that a larger role could be taken by provincial authorities, and that the Provincial Advisory Committee could not only help approve specific WASH projects but could also conduct M&E activities. This could include visits to communities to help collect accurate data on an ongoing basis. Such data could be used to help inform future WASH planning, design and development actions and decisions and contribute to future independent evaluations that may be commissioned by MFAT and other partners.

Monitoring, evaluation and learning across the program could be enhanced through more systematic and regular collection of stories of impact. For example, the WASH Sector Programme 2021 Annual Report co-developed by MFAT, DoWR, and UNICEF identifies changes such as the water quality dashboard increasing knowledge of E. coli, and water filters being funded and chlorination efforts increasing.⁴⁴

Accountability for incomplete projects

An interviewee explained that there are cases of incomplete capital works projects, and instances when contractors have left with the project incomplete (reasons unknown to the evaluation team). They felt that there was not enough support provided by the DoWR to ensure that the projects are completed and contractors are held accountable for ensuring they complete any capital works they were engaged for. When asked why the projects were incomplete, the interviewee explained that it was because "They [the contractor] don't have skills to complete the job, don't ask for help, don't feel accountable".

Another interviewee suggested that a way to manage this, and any associated challenges, would be to establish an independent body to govern the funds provided to the VWSP, and that the DoWR play the role as regulators, providing advice and be responsible for monitoring of the implemented activities. This could include pre-arranged and unplanned checks to ensure capital works are being developed as planned and are on time and on budget. It was suggested that such a body would make independent decisions including working out ways to speed up the contracting processes.

Enhanced focus on gender equality and Inclusion

A study conducted in 2017 by WASH practitioners in Vanuatu found that while women represented only 16 per cent of community water use committee membership in Vanuatu at that time, their involvement in key water use committee roles was associated with more effective water management.⁴⁵ This includes participating in and contributing to meetings and revenue collection, and the improved functioning of water systems.⁴⁶ Opportunities to engage more women and strengthen the role women already play could be explored in greater detail.

One implementing partner described some of the aspects of their projects that address gender equality and inclusion considerations: "In our projects we always work with the Government. They approve the design, they come with us to the sites. We install solar lights for young women and mothers, and we do some other projects with people with disabilities."

One provincial interviewee explained the benefits of involving people with disabilities and called for their greater inclusion in management structures: "People with disabilities are doing great advocacy for inclusive

⁴⁴ MFAT, DoWR, and UNICEF (2021) Water Sector Programme Annual Report. February 2021.

⁴⁵ Mommen, B., Humphries-Waa, K., and Gwavuya, S., (2017) Does women's participation in water committees affect management and water system performance in rural Vanuatu? In *Waterlines*, Volume 36, Issue 3, Accessed at: <https://practicalactionpublishing.com/article/2415/does-womens-participation-in-water-committees-affect-management-and-water-system-performance-in-rural-vanuatu>

⁴⁶ Ibid.

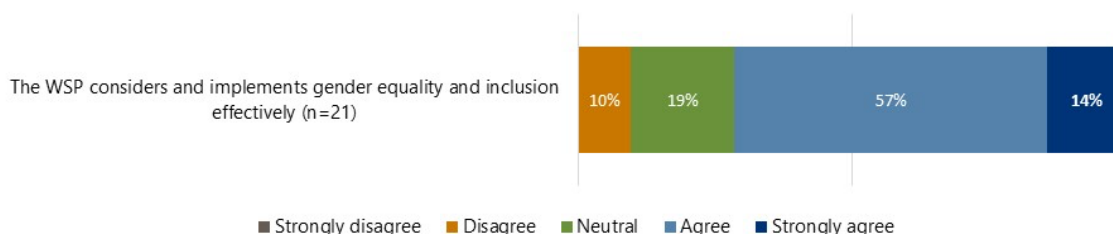
access to water, so we need to invite people with disabilities to be [a] member at [the] provincial advisory committee.”

The Vanuatu GAP clearly points out that men and boys and women and girls have different needs and priorities with respect to how they use WASH facilities.⁴⁷ In relation to women and girls, the GAP notes that:

- They often require more time when using the toilet due to clothing, menstruation, postpartum and sometimes having small children to look after at the same time
- When they have to travel far to collect water (often in the dark), women can be exposed to the risk of violence and assault
- Gender-specific needs and priorities for women can be amplified during emergencies due to shortages of resources or as a result of relocation circumstances
- They often bear the responsibility for water-related household chores such as for caring and feeding babies, washing, cleaning, and cooking.

When interviewees were asked about the extent to which they agreed that the VWSP considers and implements gender equality and inclusion effectively, almost three-quarters of all interviewed stakeholders (71%) suggested they agreed or strongly agreed that the current VWSP did so as shown in Figure 22. Also, important to note that is no respondents strongly disagreed (although the sample size was small).

Figure 22: Effectively considering and implementing gender equality and inclusion



Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

Key reasons why respondents felt that gender equality and inclusion are considered include:

- A need to adhere to the Vanuatu Water Resources Management Act which stipulates that 40% of the members of committees, have to be women.
- Women actually participating in DWSSP trainings and local water committees as Treasurers and Secretaries and being given opportunities to contribute, share their views, provide feedback, and help drive the activities undertaken by these committees (such as fundraising and community engagements).
- The inclusion of people with disabilities on water committees.
- The Department of Water Resources having its own Gender Action Plan and having collaborated with the Department of Women’s Affairs to provide additional training opportunities and enable or strengthen links to other works undertaken or funded by MFAT.

Amongst those who disagreed (10%) or were neutral (19%) feedback suggests that in some areas where stand-up pipes have been installed disabled people cannot access and use them as there is no access ramp. Additionally, it was noted that most contractors engaged to install and/or construct new water projects were male and they may not have consulted females (sometimes affectionally referred to as ‘mamas’) in the local communities.

Department of Water Resources, Gender Action Plan (GAP)

Developed by the DoWR, supported by UNICEF the Vanuatu Gender Action Plan (GAP) outlined practical and tangible actions that DoWR can take to intensify gender integration in institutional systems, processes, and resources for implementation of WASH programme to deliver gender responsive programme results.⁴⁸

This is a beautifully constructed GAP very detailed and technically of high quality. However, when those responsible for its implementation feel it as ‘ambitious’, it is unlikely to reach its full potential.

⁴⁷ Vanuatu Department of Water Resources, *DoWR Gender Action Plan Concept and Annual Updates*, p.2

⁴⁸ Vanuatu Department of Water Resources (no date) *DoWR Gender Action Plan Concept and Annual Updates*, p.2

As with any GAP the most significant indicator of success is commitment: commitment of political will, of time; support in training of those who will deliver; incentives for effective implementation and monitoring, evaluating, and learning; and, most importantly, the demonstration of the will to achieve all these things through the commitment of budget.

This is a challenge for an Action Plan that is not accompanied by a Strategy that details:

- Who is responsible for all the activities?
- Who will implement it?
- Who will monitor, evaluate?
- How will the activities be monitored and evaluated?
- What is the process for learning the lessons from this M&E, and adapting the program for continuous quality improvement?
- How often will the Action Plan itself be reviewed and/or evaluated?

In addition to these fundamental questions, we would like to know if the activities are in the DoWR Business Plan, and whether they are resourced within that plan. Failing a particular MEL plan for the GAP, and if it is factored into the Business Plan, how frequently is it to be reviewed? In either instance there is no indication of who will take charge of it, particularly once beyond the national level and into the provinces.

However, none of these problems are insurmountable, and this GAP provides the opportunity for the DOWR to collaborate in a meaningful way with the Department of Women's Affairs (DWA - responsible for the implementation of the National Gender Equality Policy 2015-2019) and other Ministries and Departments who have workers in the provinces and at the community level.

Greater coordination with sanitation programs and funders

Interviewees discussed the interrelated issue of sanitation as part of a holistic approach to WASH. While the MFAT funded VWSP is focussed on water and SDG 6.1, other donors (for example the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) are funding work in sanitation. There are opportunities for the capacity development focus, frameworks, funding modality and successes of the VWSP to help inform future planning and investments in sanitation. This would need closer connection and collaboration between the various governments, international organisations and implementing partners involved in sanitation that have an existing focus or potential future interest in supporting such projects in Vanuatu including options for consideration for support and/or funding include delivering water systems, and considering how best to manage climate change implications (in particular, during natural disasters).

One interviewee explained that there are plans underway by the Ministry of Health through the Environmental Health Unit to recruit sanitation officers who will be based in Provincial Government area council headquarters across Vanuatu. It would be a good opportunity for these officers to be connected to the water officers, and work to complement the DWSSPs so water and sanitation, including WASH behaviour change programs, are coordinated and unintended consequences are minimised.

Recommendations

Table 8 summarises the key recommendations stemming from the evaluation, based on advice from interviewees considered alongside the document review and considerable WASH, community engagement, gender equality and inclusion and system strengthening expertise within the evaluation team. In total, 34 recommendations have been made.

Table 8: Evaluation recommendations

#	Category	Recommendation	Who would implement? (leading stakeholders)	Explanation
1	● Human Resources, Capacity	Greater focus is needed to develop strategies to increase local capacity for operation and maintenance of schemes (women and men)	Community members supported by providers of training programs including TVET, plumbers' associations, NGOs and DoWR	Feedback from provincial stakeholders indicates that in many local communities there is lack of people with the technical expertise required to help maintain and repair VWSP projects developed within those communities. Engineering, plumbing and other relevant skills were identified as being in shortage.
2	● Human resources	Consider how more human resources could be accessed, developed or provided within provinces.	Multiple	There is a perceived lack of staff, technical experts, and people who can maintain, operate and when needed repair WASH infrastructure within the provinces. Women and in some cases, people with disabilities, may be ideally placed to be supported as often they are more likely to remain in their local communities and not leave for seasonal work opportunities.
3	● Human resources	Investigate human resources issues related to absenteeism, and positions not being filled.	DoWR	Reports of staff positions not being filled and absenteeism were provided which warrant further consideration and addressing. Where possible, vacant positions for which funding is available, should be advertised, candidates invited to apply and then interviewed appropriately. Processes should be transparent and adhere to any relevant Vanuatu employment-related acts of legislation and/or donor conditions.
4	● Human resources	Boost skills training at the local level	DoWR and Provincial government agencies	Explore additional opportunities to partner with TVET to boost capacity and support for WASH related trades at the local level. This could also involve raising awareness for existing TVET and APTC programs and support opportunities such as the ones already funded by DFAT. Plumbing, engineering, general operations, repairs and maintenance, accounting and bookkeeping, coordinating and administering water committee members are all skills that local communities require.

#	Category	Recommendation	Who would implement? (leading stakeholders)	Explanation
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GEDSI ● Local Engagement ● M&E 	Deepen the Gender Equality and Inclusion aspects of the VWSP	Multiple actors, including partnerships with the Department of Women, the research organisations, research department at USP, women's groups and Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs)	<p>In the next phase of the VWSP it is recommended that a more purposeful approach to mainstreaming and targeting gender equality be undertaken to build on the Gender Action Plan and measures currently in place, such as the target of 40% of water committee members being women. Ways in which the program could be enhanced through gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) measures could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more consistent, inclusive and formalised training for all actors across different levels of the VWSP model; • community engagement processes around GEDSI issues more broadly at the community level • qualitative data collection and analysis of women's experiences in being part of water committees, leadership opportunities, and their contributions and achievements to date • research into the relationship between committee effectiveness and inclusion, as a follow up to the 2014-2015 study, published in 2017. • career pathway talks and engagement with schools facilitated by DoWR and Ministry of Education, public Service and Colleges encouraging WASH Engineers and Women in Engineering (WASH and STEM)
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● M&E 	Conduct capacity assessments of staff being supported by EWB and UNICEF to target support, and monitor and evaluate learning outcomes.	EWB NZ, UNICEF	Capacity assessments for staff supported by volunteers and UNICEF, and better M&E of what capacities have been developed, by whom and what the success factors and challenges were ⁴⁹ .
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partnership (Government + 	Improve donor coordination	DoWR, UNICEF	Consider more ways to support and formalise process of educating and engaging other donors and implementing partners on the NIP/CAP framework, and how to fit within it rather than conducting WASH work outside of this process.

⁴⁹ https://mol.gov.vu/images/water/WASH_Capacity_and_Training_Needs_Assesment_for_Vanuatu_280219.pdf

#	Category	Recommendation	Who would implement? (leading stakeholders)	Explanation
	International Organisations)			Consider formalising some of the processes UNICEF have developed to link key actors in the sector, so that this function is not lost with staff changes.
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GEDSI ● Local Engagement 	Support for young engineers, especially women.	DoWR	<p>UNICEF and EWB NZ have done some work in schools to promote engineering, and as a result, some of these students are now working for the DoWR. To continue and advance this work, it is recommended that a paid internship program be established, to attract more young women and men engineers to the DoWR if career pathways and opportunities can flow from these internships.⁵⁰ If additional funding is secured, scholarships may be set up and provided to engineering students with conditions attached to ensure they then work in Vanuatu for a certain time period (yet to be determined) rather than taking their skills and qualifications overseas.</p> <p>There are opportunities for on the job training and mentoring for young water professionals, including professional development courses, support for young women to encourage them into the sector, engagement with engineering and plumbing courses and schools, and engagement with young students via schools. The VWSP could draw from the more than 180 actions implemented globally in the water sector to increase inclusion.⁵¹</p>
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● M&E ● Local Engagement 	Increase monitoring and evaluation expertise in provinces.	Provinces and area administrators, EWB	It was suggested that M&E could be improved at the provincial level, and that it would be good to have more technical M&E expertise in each province. They also noted that in some communities monitoring does not really happen because the committee is not stable. Sometimes the provincial officers need to go to the community and re-check the data provided or help ensure data is collected on an ongoing and more regular basis. Increased provincial and local community monitoring and evaluation activities would likely assist any future VWSP independent evaluations commissioned by MFAT and/or any implementing partners.

⁵⁰ “Ni vans who are given scholarship need to return to Vanuatu to work for 2 years before looking to work overseas. Very few has done so.”

⁵¹ ISF-UTS (2022) Inclusive WASH workforce: <https://www.uts.edu.au/isf/news/inclusive-wash-workplaces>

#	Category	Recommendation	Who would implement? (leading stakeholders)	Explanation
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Partnership (government + international organisations), ● Climate change 	Conduct climate change and resilience research, thinking, planning, consideration to be a larger part of the VWSP	National government and implementing partners with research partners (including USP possibly)	<p>Considering WASH, climate change, gender equality and agriculture together in a holistic way will help to build integrated and synergistic outcomes and enhanced alignment of outcomes across projects and programs.</p> <p>It is recommended that key stakeholders consider building relationships with academics at the University of the South Pacific (USP) who could be part of a broader research program related to the VWSP</p>
11	● Finance	Deliver financial training and support for the water committee	National Government and implementing partners	<p>Once the water committee takes over the bookkeeping responsibilities they need support and training for the monitoring visits and to help them accurately maintain the finances for the water scheme (including the ongoing collection of water fees from local community members or infrastructure projects. Further support may be needed to create a fees/payment system that is fair and manages issues such as when a shared tap stand does not work and needs maintenance and to determine who should be responsible who will fix it and how much budget is allocated to the task.</p>
12	● Finance	Consider how the tendering process could be made available via an online form/process.	National Government, UNICEF	<p>Implementing partners would like to see more automation in the tendering process, and ways to apply for contracts online as well as to check on the progress of their application. They also mentioned that associated payments (invoicing) are slow pointing to a need for more human resources in the procurement space, but possibly also better systems to receive, process and monitor invoice payments within a certain time period (yet to be determined).</p>
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Governance ● Finance 	Further consider options and opportunities to delegate financial approval to be at the Province to enable faster processing of tenders.	DoWR	<p>The DoWR have restructured the Department and have made moves to devolve more decision making and budget control at the provincial level. Once this process has settled into place, then consideration of CAP funding being managed at the provincial level could be considered, to empower provinces to manage procurement process and potentially speed up tendering processes (particularly if these processes become more efficient through being submitted and processed online).</p>

#	Category	Recommendation	Who would implement? (leading stakeholders)	Explanation
14	● Finance	Review emergency funding processes and procedures	Donors and DoWR	Reflect on funding and ways in which Vanuatu has managed emergency funds during Tropical Cyclone Harold and other natural disasters, and identify ways in which emergency funding can be effectively utilised while continuing to support the fundamentals of the VWSP within the current structure of the model.
15	● Partnership (government + international organisations), ● Climate change ● Governance	Seek additional funding to scale up the program	National Government, donors	While the Green Climate Funds (GCF) are anticipated to increase the budget for the DoWR in the next five years, funding for the VWSP could be increased and ensured longer-term to ensure that ongoing commitments and programs such as the VWSP and CAP are maintained and evolve. Efforts could also be made to ensure that funding from other donors (such as Australia or Japan) and implementing partners that have previously supported WASH programs in Vanuatu and the South Pacific region are aligned with the VWSP model to prevent an ad hoc approach being adopted and to help maximise existing efforts and projects. It is recommended that GCF funding for projects align with what the DoWR already has put in place (supported by MFAT) to build on and strengthen the existing governance framework and institutions.
16	● Local Engagement ● Climate change	Consider developing provincial water supply plans.	DoWR	Consider catchment management and provincial water supply plans to help guide decisions at the catchment level and with a resilience point of view. These plans could also include managed retreat from climate change or plans for displaced people due to climate change.
17	● Governance ● Climate change	Increase water, sanitation and climate change sector coordination	Ministry of Health, Department of Water Resources, Ministry of Climate Change and Meteorology, UNICEF, Donors, Ministry of Education and Training	Increased coordination between sanitation, water and climate change departments and ministries, as well as donors and implementing partners seeking to invest in these interrelated sectors and/or support the design and development of specific projects.
18	● Governance	Bring drilling rig into the NIP and CAP	National Government, UNICEF	Stakeholders recommended that given drilling rig operations are not currently included in the VWSP, the next phase could

#	Category	Recommendation	Who would implement? (leading stakeholders)	Explanation
				consider bringing drilling rig operations into the NIP and CAP, and application of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) guidelines for drilling could be used to inform this process.
19	● Governance	Map drought/water resources to support communities to understand water resources availability and constraints.	DoWR, UNICEF	Should more water resources mapping be available (and climate predictions related to drought and floods) at the provincial level, then this could be used to help with the prioritisation of support for community DWSSPs as well as the design of DWSSPs themselves led by community members. It could also assist future climate change impact modelling and mapping (such as areas that may be impacted by floods caused as a result of rising sea levels) at different levels of impact (such as low, medium and high) which the government may use to assess likely impacts and use to plan appropriate, measured and evidence-based responses.
20	● Governance	Consider a greater focus on WASH in health care facilities and schools	National Government and UNICEF	It is recommended that there be an increased focus on WASH-related topics, programs and challenges in other industries such as health care facilities and schools. In addition, one interviewee explained that there was a significant need for safe water in health facilities, “we have to agree to the issue by fixing the community water system for the Health facility to have access to running water, but we don’t usually have funds for that in our cost centre budget.” Consideration could be given to prioritising water equipment and projects that will be based within health facilities such as local clinics or hospitals, as well as schools given the well documented evidence of improved learning, health and dignity outcomes for children and their families.
21	● Partnership (government + international organisations)	Increase coordination between VWSP partners	UNICEF, EWB, MFAT and DoWR	There is some confusion amongst the partners around accountabilities, reporting lines and how the different parts of the partnership work together. Some more formal ways for this group to collaborate could be useful for overall coordination and understanding of roles and responsibilities. When COVID-19 travel restrictions are reduced or removed in Vanuatu, one possibility might to organise an industry-wide VWSP seminar or conference to bring together stakeholders from all levels (international, national, provincial and community) and

#	Category	Recommendation	Who would implement? (leading stakeholders)	Explanation
				encourage increased stakeholder collaboration and the co-design of potential solutions to current challenges.
22	● GEDSI	Consider developing a Gender Action Plan Implementation Strategy	DoWR	<p>The existing DoWR Gender Action Plan currently sets out gender-related WASH priorities along with a table of objectives, activities, required resources, results, indicators and sustainability components. The DoWR should consider developing a Gender Action Plan Implementation Strategy that sets out the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is responsible for all the activities? • Who will implement it? • Who will monitor, evaluate, and learn from the activities? • How will the activities be monitored and evaluated? • What is the process for learning the lessons from this M&E, and adapting the program for continuous quality improvement?
23	● GEDSI	Conduct an internal investigation of existing community resources (especially those provided by the GoV, and Provincial Gov.	DoWR/ other Ministries and Departments, Provincial leaders, area administrators and community	The DoWR can investigate existing community resources. This will allow them to identify what training in O&M is necessary. It is recommended to facilitate skills in missing gaps and encourage community engagement.
24	● GEDSI	Deepen partnership between other Ministries and Departments, Provincial leaders and community members to provide communities with the skills and support to facilitate and develop their own plans	DoWR/ DWA/ Disability Desk of Ministry of Justice and Community Services/other Ministries and Departments, Provincial leaders, area administrators and community	Support stakeholders to provide training to volunteers in the community to gain skills in inclusive community development, focus on voice and agency for marginalised people/leadership and decision-making; community-owned gender-based violence reduction and economic empowerment. Focus on areas of community need, including water resource management, O&M, DRR and others.
25	● GEDSI	Train next generation of young leaders in core inclusive community development skills	DoWR/DWA/ Disability Desk of MoJCS/other Ministries and Departments,	To ensure self-sustainability, it is recommended that by building and facilitating core skills amongst youth leaders could help expand the potential workforce, operationalising community plans to improve community development, while also increasing

#	Category	Recommendation	Who would implement? (leading stakeholders)	Explanation
			Provincial leaders, area administrators and community	youth engagement and reducing foreign dependency. This may be especially desirable if it can lead to a TVET entry pathway.
26	● GEDSI	Enhance results measurement framework	DoWR, EWB, UNICEF and funders/ donors	The VWSP results measurement framework used for VWSP projects could be expanded to include gender equality and inclusion, as well as capacity development. This would require the collection of more qualitative information on a more regular basis to help inform planning and decision making processes.
27	● Transparency	Continue and allocate budget for the information collection and storage system	DoWR, UNICEF, MFEM	It is recommended that a commitment is made to fund and support the development and strengthening of an efficient, secure data and information collection and invoicing/ payments processing system through MFEM. The system should be accessible to all relevant stakeholders (although different access rights or permission levels could be applied), be linked to NWRI data and should be automated and online and be used to help inform future decision making and monitoring and evaluation processes and outcomes.
28	● M&E	Increase knowledge of groundwater	DoWR, UNICEF, EWB	Groundwater. Knowing the groundwater resource base would be valuable for not only collecting new data, but making sense of what is there. For example, one technical stakeholder suggested developing a tool along the lines of the Africa Groundwater Atlas ⁵² could be useful, especially given the increased focus on groundwater as potentially a more reliable source of water (compared to rainwater) in a variable climate driven by climate change.
29	● M&E	Research and M&E on O&M	DoWR, UNICEF	Given concerns about ongoing O&M, it is recommended that a research and M&E initiative be developed to track system sustainability over time. Independent evaluations of the VWSP model as a whole should also continue to occur. Potential for testing of alternatives aligned with 5 yearly WRI.
30	● M&E	Increase the focus on water quality and water safety.	DoWR, UNICEF	Additional investment in following up water safety planning and implementation is required, including ongoing monitoring and

⁵² British Geological Survey, *Africa Groundwater Atlas*, <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/geology-projects/africa-groundwater-atlas/>

#	Category	Recommendation	Who would implement? (leading stakeholders)	Explanation
				reporting of data to the centralised government inventory. This includes reporting against the SDG categorisations of basic and safely managed water and sanitation services. There also may be opportunities to improve understanding of, and methods to treat water to acceptable levels (such as for use in food preparation and cooking or as drinking water), and behavioural change initiatives. ⁵³
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● M&E ● Partnership (government + international organisations) 	Refresh MEL framework in light of additional inputs and gaps	MFAT, DoWR, UNICEF and EWBNZ	It is suggested that the members of the partnership come together to consider refreshing the MEL framework to be more outcomes driven, and also to align with new funding requirements such as the Green Climate Fund. The principle of using existing reporting processes that the Department is undertaking and is using for a range of purposes should underpin this process, so as not to place undue burden or parallel systems on the DoWR. More gender related indicators as well as regular collection of qualitative data, functionality of water committees as well as infrastructure and health outcomes are required.
32	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● M&E ● Governance 	Further consider and investigate the applicability of the NIP-CAP arrangement for other government functions.	National Government Agencies and donors	It is recommended that further investigation be conducted to consider the applicability of the NIP-CAP arrangement for other government functions, including climate change adaptation activities. For example, if communities need to build infrastructure to enhance their resilience, could a local level planning and approval process be connected with national or provincial level funding opportunities assessed with a risk rating and transparent prioritisation criteria including how and when funding decisions of community projects are announced. Such a model could be considered by other Ministries, such as the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education.

⁵³ For further analysis related to water quality challenges in Vanuatu, see Rand, Cumbo, Marcelin, Sami and Sammy (2021) Options for Addressing Poor Quality Drinking Water in Rural Vanuatu, Accessed at: <https://practicalactionpublishing.com/article/3059/options-for-addressing-poor-quality-drinking-water-in-rural-vanuatu>

#	Category	Recommendation	Who would implement? (leading stakeholders)	Explanation
33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● M&E ● Governance 	Ensure water quality results and other data sources are inputted into the database	DoWR (capacity and technical support provided by UNICEF)	The 2021 WASH Sector Programme Annual Report identified data entry to be a priority for 2021 and beyond. This recommendation requires implementation and reflection, to ensure that data is meaningfully collected and used.
34	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● M&E ● Governance 	Continue to monitor and manage the established water safety planning approach to consider climate change and identify resilient infrastructure improvements		Continue to review the water safety planning approach, so that communities review hazards associated with climate change and identify resilient infrastructure improvements as suggested and reviewed by Rand et al (2022). ⁵⁴

⁵⁴ Rand, E.C., Foster, T., Sami, E., and Sammy, E. (2022) Review of water safety planning processes and options for improved climate resilient infrastructure in Vanuatu. Water Practice and Technology.

Annex 1. Documents reviewed for the evaluation

The following documents were provided to us by MFAT, implementing partners and other key stakeholders which were used to enhance the evaluation team's background knowledge of the Vanuatu VWSP and help inform the evaluation.

File name	File type
2018 June DoWR VWSP 6 Month Report	PDF
2019 July to December DoWR VWSP Report	Word
2020 VWSP Report Final	PDF
2021 Jan 19 VWSP Report	PDF
30 Nov 2018 Vanuatu New Zealand VWSP Inception Year Report UNICEF	PDF
Activity Monitoring Assessment (AMA) 2018 - VWSP	Word
Activity Monitoring Assessment (AMA) 2019 - VWSP	Word
Activity Monitoring Assessment (AMA) 2020 - VWSP	Word
Annex B- Poor Water Quality Poster	JPG
Annex B- Training - RFQ Procedures	PPT
Annex C - Water Quality Options project presentation	PPT
Annex D - MoU, DoWR and RWC - Template	Word
Annex E - Climate Resilient Improvements	Word
Annex F - DWSSP Design, Material List and Cost Estimate Tool	PDF
Annex I - Design Status	Word
Annex I - NIP CAP Status by Province	Word
Annex A - Water Sector Partnership Inception Phase Plan and Appendices	Word
Appendix 1 Results measurement table	Word
Appendix 2 Water Systems Complete in 2021	Word
Box Plot Data	Excel
Building resilient WASH system in Vanuatu - Government of Vanuatu	MP4
Climate Resilient Water Safety Plans	Word
COM Water Urban Services Department - August 2021 V4	PDF
Contending With Water Shortages in the Pacific: Performance of Private Rainwater Tanks Versus Communal Rainwater Tanks in Rural Vanuatu	PDF
Copy of Annex 4+FP tables budget MFAT co-financing contribution	Excel
Cyclone damage to rural water supply in remote Vanuatu	PDF

Day 2, Lunch Tech Showcase I - UNC Water and Health 2021	MP4
Does the source of water for piped supplies affect child health? Evidence from rural Vanuatu	PDF
DoWR 2020 Overall Business Plan Final	Excel
DoWR 6 month report 2021 August	PDF
DoWR Annual Report 2021	PDF
DoWR Costed Workplan 2020	Excel
DoWR Financial Management and Delegation of Authority Policy for GIP Trust Monies	PDF
DoWR Restructure Staffing Costs	Excel
DoWR Salary Costs	Excel
DoWR VWSP 6 month Report August 2019	PDF
DoWR VWSP Annual Report 2019	Word
Draft Gender Action Plan in Vanuatu	PDF
Draft Urban Water Organogram	PPT
Engineers Without Borders 2020 Activity Report	PDF
Equity and Climate Change's impact on Water Supply in Vanuatu	PDF
Evaluation Plan template	Word
Evaluation Report template	Word
Evaluation Policy- MFAT	PDF
EWBNZ Vanuatu WASH TA Support GFA	PDF
EWBNZ 2019-12-20 DoWR Technical Placements - 2019 Activity Report	PDF
EWBNZ 2019-12-20 DoWR Technical Placements - 2019 Financial Report	Excel
EWBNZ Activity Report for WASH Sector Strengthening in Vanuatu	PDF
EWBNZ Reporting Budget for WASH Sector Strengthening Placements	PDF
Faecal Risks in Port Vila	PPT
Faecal Sludge Management in Port Vila	Word
Financing Smart Water in Vanuatu	Word
First Year Inception Report	PDF
GCF-SPC Vanuatu Theory of Change	PDF
https://exchange.riscon.solutions/dowr/reporting/dashboards/torba-province/#	
Indicative Business Case - Water Sector Partnership 2021	Word
Innovative Use of Social Media Taking WASH in Schools to Scale in Vanuatu	PDF

Lenakei Municipal By law - Draft	Word
Lenakei Municipal By law - References	PPT
Letter of Variation (LOV) 3 Unicef Water Sector Partnership 2017	PDF
Letter of Variation (LOV) 5 for Water Sector Partnership	PDF
List of docs for MFAT-VWSP Evaluation	Word
LOV1 GFA DoWR Vanuatu Water Sector Partnership WPG	PDF
Luganville Municipal By law - Draft	Word
Luganville Municipal By law - References	PPT
MFAT 2019-2021 Costed Workplan including TA	Excel
MFAT VWSP Vanuatu Annual Report 2021	PDF
MFAT VWSP evaluation March 2022	Word
Migrated Posts Full Details Table	Word
Model Provincial By law	PPT
Model Provincial By law - Draft	Word
OPSC Submission	Word
Options for Addressing Poor Quality Drinking Water in Rural Vanuatu	PDF
Output 1 - Final Updated SOP for Drilling Operations FINAL with Process Flow Diagram	Word
Output 2 - Drilling Technical Guidelines (Outline Report)	Word
Output 2 - Drilling Technical Guidelines 31.08.2021	Word
Review of Water Safety Planning Processes and options for Improved Climate Resilient Infrastructure in Vanuatu	PDF
Rural Water Supply Services in Vanuatu in need of Significant Improvements	PDF
SANMA Provincial By law - Draft	Word
SANMA Provincial By law - References	PPT
Self-Supplied drinking water in low- and middle- income countries in the Asia-Pacific	PDF
Signed GFA 1 - Engineers Without Borders VWSP	PDF
Table of all Rural Positions Numbered Version 1	Word
Table of Rural Positions Phase 1	Word
Table of Rural Positions Phase 2	Word
Table of Urban Positions Numbered	Word
TAFEA Provincial By law - Draft	Word
TAFEA Provincial By law - References	PPT

UNICEF Activity Progress Report 2020 (for 2019 work)	PDF
UNICEF Donor Statement by Activity (Uncertified)	PDF
UNICEF MFAT VWSP Vanuatu Annual Report 2021	PDF
UNICEF Report Water Sector Support Vanuatu Annual Progress Report Final Edited Version 30 Jan 2021	PDF
Urban FSM Technical Specifications	Word
Vanuatu DoWR IMS	MP4
Vanuatu Information Management System	Word
Vanuatu New Zealand VWSP 6 Month Progress Report UNICEF Final 29 June 2018	PDF
Vanuatu Sankey	PDF
Vanuatu Urban FSM Risk Assessment Report	Word
Vanuatu, Water Sector Partnership Y2-4 - Single Stage Business Case	Word
Vanuatu - Draft Water Quality Monitoring Guidelines-Oct-21	Word
VWSP Project Procurements and Implementations dates for 2020	PDF
Wang, C., and Burris, M.A., (1997) Photo Voice: Concept, Methodology, and Use for Participatory Needs Assessment. Health Education & Behaviour. 1997;24(3):369-387. doi:10.1177/109019819702400309	Article
WASH Technical Paper - Rural Water Supply Services in Vanuatu	PDF
Water circulation and impact on water quality in the southwest of Efate Island, Vanuatu	PDF
Water Sector Partnership - Key contacts	Word
Water Sector Partnership Evaluation - Overview of Partnership	PDF
WEDC Presentation 2	MP4
WEDC Video	MP4
WEDC-2021-Cyclone Damage to Rural Water Supply in Remote Vanuatu	MP4
WQ presentation	PPT

Annex 2. List of provincial and community DWSSPs

REF #	Donor and Year	Province	Community	Area Council	Island	Source	Type of Water System
1	WORLD BANK 2019 (CONTRACTS)	Tafea	Ianatoka	South East	Tanna	Rainwater	RWH
2			Ienimilen	South East	Tanna	Spring	DGF
3			Letakren	West Tanna	Tanna	Spring	DGF
4			Lounalapen	West Tanna	Tanna	Spring	DGF
5			Nazareth	South East	Tanna	Spring	DGF
6	MFAT 2019 (CONTRACTS)	Penama	Aligu	North East	Pentecost	Spring	DGF
7			Asanvari	South Maewo	Maewo	Spring	DGF
8			Level	CP1	Pentecost	Rainwater	RWH
9			Levondo	North Pentecost	Pentecost	River	No system
10			Londar	South Pentecost	Pentecost	Rainwater/Spring	No system
11			Lonvis	CP2	Pentecost	Stream	Incomplete DGF
12			Namaram church	CP1	Pentecost	Spring	DGF
13			Onlapa & Savat	CP2	Pentecost	Stream	Incomplete DGF
14			Singmwel	North Pentecost	Pentecost	Rainwater	RWH
15			Tavtel	CP2	Pentecost	Spring	IDGF (Not working)
16			Farealapa	Nguna-Pele	Nguna	Spring/Rainwater	No System
17			Taloa	Nguna-Pele	Nguna	Borehole	IDGF
18			Worearu	Nguna-Pele	Pele	RWH	RWH
19	Nulnesa	Epi	Epi	Spring	DGF		
20	Mafelau	Epi	Epi	Spring	DGF		
21	Teouma Bush	South	Efate	Rainwater	RWH		
22	Malafau	North West	Efate	Borehole	IDGF		
23	Sara	Epi	Epi	Spring	DGF		
24	Lelepa	North West	Efate	Borehole	IDGF		
25	Sunae	Moso	Lelepa	Borehole	Hand Pump		
26	Wosaga	West Vanua Lava	Vanua Lava	Spring	DGF		
27	Kerembita	West Vanua Lava	Vanua Lava	River/Rainwater	No system		
28	Qwetegaveg	West Gaua	Gaua	Rainwater	RWH		

Evaluation of the New Zealand Government Funded Vanuatu Water Sector Partnership 2022

REF #	Donor and Year	Province	Community	Area Council	Island	Source	Type of Water System	
29			Vatles	East Gaua Merig	Gaua	Rainwater/Creek	No system	
30			Likwal	Toga	Toga	Rainwater/Borehole	IDGF	
31			Yokwana	Hiu	Hiu	Spring	DGF	
32			Telvet/Demas	Mota Lava	Mota Lava	Surface Water	DGF	
33			Leseraplag	Ureparapara	Ureparapara	Surface Water	DGF	
34			Tano	South East	Ureparapara	Surface Water	DGF	
35			Leqarangle	Ureparapara	Ureparapara	Surface Water	DGF	
36		Malampa	Vao	North East	Malekula	Borehole	Hand Pump	
37			Malvakal	West	Malekula	Spring	DGF	
38			Tisman	South East	Malekula	Stream	DGF	
39			Larvat	Central	Malekula	Rainwater	RWH	
40			Hokai	South West	Malekula	Spring	DGF	
41			Tenmaru/Winma	North West A	Malekula	Spring	DGF	
42			Wiawi	North West A	Malekula	Groundwater	Hand Dug Well	
43			Liro	North	Paama	Borehole	Hand Pump	
44			Matanvat	Central	Malekula	Borehole	Hand Pump	
45			Makam	North	Ambrym	Rainwater	RWH	
46			Sanma	Linduri	West Coast	Santo	River	DGF
47				Nakere	South Santo 1	Santo	Spring	DGF
48				Nokuku	North West	Santo	Spring	DGF
49				Olpoi	North West	Santo	Spring	DGF
50				Elia	West Coast	Santo	Stream	DGF
51		Vaipei		North West	Santo	Spring	DGF	
52		Mavunlevu		South Santo 1	Santo	Stream	DGF	
53		Tasiriki		South Santo 2	Santo	Spring	DGF	
54		Ipayato		South Santo 2	Santo	Spring	DGF	
55		Kororo		Big Bay Bush	Santo	River	DGF	
56		Tafea	Ikiti	South West	Tanna	Spring	DGF	
57			Imaki	South	Tanna	Stream	DGF	
58			Laketam	Naka	Tanna	Stream	DGF	

Evaluation of the New Zealand Government Funded Vanuatu Water Sector Partnership 2022

REF #	Donor and Year	Province	Community	Area Council	Island	Source	Type of Water System
59	ITALIAN FUND 2020 (CONTRACTS)	Torba	Analcauhat	Aneityum	Aneityum	Spring	DGF
60			Isavai	North	Aniwa	Rainwater	RWH
61			Port Narvin	North	Erromango	Stream	DGF
62			Herald Bay	Futuna	Futuna	Spring	DGF
63			Port Resolution	South East	Tanna	Spring	DGF
64			Lohasul	Middlebush	Tanna	Stream	IDGF-RAM Pump
65			Tuwit	North	Erromango	Stream	DGF
66			Atkor	East Gaua Merig	Gaua	Rainwater	RWH
67			Merig	East Gaua Merig	Merig	Rainwater	RWH
68			Lotawan	Mota	Mota	Rainwater	RWH
69		Tugwetap	Mota	Mota	Rainwater	RWH	
70		Lerat	Mere Lava	Mere Lava	Rainwater	RWH	
71		Bareo & Saralobe	West Coast	Santo	Spring	DGF	
72		Pelmol	West Coast	Santo	Spring	DGF	
73		Fanafo	Canal Fanafo	Santo	Spring	DGF	
74		Pelvus	Big Bay Coast	Santo	Spring	DGF	
75		Namatau & Maleviats	South Santo	Santo	Spring	DGF	
76		Ambakura	East Malo	Malo	Borehole/Rainwater	Hand Pump/RWH	
77		Naviso	East Maewo	Maewo	Stream	DGF (Incomplete)	
78		Tanbalul	East Maewo	Maewo	Stream	DGF (Incomplete)	
79		Bataole	North Maewo	Maewo	Stream	DGF (Incomplete)	
80		Naonone	North Maewo	Maewo	Stream	DGF (Incomplete)	
81		Ahivo	North Pentecost	Pentecost	Rainwater	RWH	
82		Rano Island	North East Malekula	Malekula	Groundwater/Rainwater	Hand dug well/RWH	
83		Tavulai	South Paama	Paama	Borehole/Rainwater	Hand Pump/RWH	
84		Faralo, Taveliot	Central Malekula	Malekula	Groundwater	IDGF	
85		Urpive Island	Central Malekula	Malekula	Rainwater/Sea	RWH/Desalination	
86		Meltegone	West Ambrym	Ambrym	Rainwater	RWH	
87	Leviamp	North West Malekula	Malekula	Spring	DGF		
88	Wintua	South West Malekula	Malekula	Stream	DGF		

Evaluation of the New Zealand Government Funded Vanuatu Water Sector Partnership 2022

REF #	Donor and Year	Province	Community	Area Council	Island	Source	Type of Water System
89	ITALIAN FUND 2020 (DOWR)	Shefa	Meresawia	Nguna	Nguna	Rainwater	RWH
90			Magaliliu	North West Efate	Efate	Spring	DGF
91			Epule Top	North Efate	Efate	Spring	IDGF-RAM Pump
92		Tafea	Imio	South East Tanna	Tanna	Spring	DGF
93			Louetemah	East Tanna	Tanna	Rainwater	No System
94			Ianapkasu	South West Tanna	Tanna	Spring	DGF
95			Ianuhup	South West Tanna	Tanna	Spring	DGF
96			Lamitatal	West Tanna	Tanna	Rainwater	RWH
97			Iquaramanu	South Tanna	Tanna	Spring	DGF
98			Torba	Sola Township	Sola	Vanua Lava	Spring
99		Penama	Saratamata	East Ambae	Ambae	Borehole	IDGF
100		Malampa	Lakatoro	Central Malekula	Malekula	Borehole	IDGF
101		Tafea	Isangel/Lenakel	West Tanna	Tanna	Borehole	IDGF
102			Imaru	West Tanna	Tanna	Borehole	No System
103			Lamnatu	West Tanna	Tanna	Borehole	No System
104	Lopukas		West Tanna	Tanna	Borehole	No System	
105	Naluken 1		West Tanna	Tanna	Borehole	No System	
			Naluken 4	West Tanna	Tanna	Borehole	No System
106	FRIENDS IN ACTION (FIA)	Sanma	Big Bay Inland	Matairan	Santo	Spring	No System
107	MFAT 2020 (CONTRACTS)	Tafea	Ikapho	Central	Tanna	Borehole	IDGF-RAM Pump
108			Nimainanira (Imailone)	West	Tanna	Borehole	IDGF
109			Kouanmane/Imaeimsine	West	Tanna	Rainwater	RWH
110			Envitana	South	Tanna	Spring	DGF
111			Kuaraka	South	Tanna	Spring	DGF
112			Launeparu	West	Tanna	Rainwater	RWH
113			Lounapaiu/Laus	North West	Tanna	Spring	DGF
114			Louinio (Louania)	West	Tanna	Borehole	IDGF
115			Isla	West	Tanna	Spring	DGF

Evaluation of the New Zealand Government Funded Vanuatu Water Sector Partnership 2022

REF #	Donor and Year	Province	Community	Area Council	Island	Source	Type of Water System
116			Port Patrick	Aneityum	Aneityum	Spring	DGF
117			Nangus	East	Efate	Borehole	IDGF
118			Matarisu	East	Efate	Spring	DGF
119			Napara	North	Efate	Borehole	IDGF
120			Sama	North	Efate	Borehole	IDGF
121		Shefa	Erangorango	South	Efate	Borehole	IDGF
122			Banana Bay	South-East	Efate	w	RWH
123			Mansaumalo	North	Efate	Borehole	IDGF
124			Nikaura	East	Epi	Spring	DGF
125			Undapua/Talooa	Nguna	Nguna	Borehole	IDGF
126			Saviu/Leongoro	Tongoa	Tongoa	Rainwater	RWH
127				Mae	Cental	Malekula	Spring
128			Win	North West	Malekula	Spring	DGF
129			Unua 1-3	South East	Malekula	Spring	DGF
130			Unua 4 & 5	South East	Malekula	Spring	DGF
131		Malampa	Tahi	Central	Paama	Spring	DGF
132			Noko/Vantongtong konkon	North	Ambrym	Spring	DGF
133			Fanrereo/Fanla Linbul	North	Ambrym	Spring	DGF
134			Wilak & Vahas	North West	Malekula	Spring	DGF
135			Vao Mainland	North East	Malekula	Spring	DGF
136			Toman Island	South	Malekula	Groundwater	Hand Dug Well
137				Lebetamit (Enbock)	CP2	Pentecost	Rainwater
138			Rarai	South	Ambae	Rainwater	RWH
139			Lekasup	CP1	Pentecost	Rainwater	RWH
140			Lemus	East	Ambae	Rainwater	RWH
141		Penama	Waet Wota	South	Pentecost	Spring	DGF
142			Labuanga	North	Pentecost	Rainwater	RWH
143			Lovuntavo	North	Ambae	Rainwater	RWH
144			Lolomari	East	Ambae	Rainwater	RWH
145			Namaram (Basis)	CP1	Pentecost	Spring	DGF

Evaluation of the New Zealand Government Funded Vanuatu Water Sector Partnership 2022

REF #	Donor and Year	Province	Community	Area Council	Island	Source	Type of Water System	
146			Lokaturetovu	East	Ambae	Rainwater	RWH	
147			Matantas	Big Bay Coast	Santo	Rainwater	RWH	
148			Avunabulu	West	Malo	Spring	DGF	
149			Araki Island	South	Santo	Borehole	IDGF - SOLAR	
150			Palon	Canal Fanafo	Santo	Rainwater	RWH	
151		Sanma	Wunavae	North West	Santo	Spring	DGF	
152			Sulesak	North West	Santo	Spring	DGF	
153			Angoru	Big Bay Inland	Santo	Spring	DGF	
154			Ataripoe	East	Malo	Borehole	IDGF - SOLAR	
155			Nawelala	Big Bay Inland	Santo	Spring	DGF	
156			Natchara	South	Santo	Spring	DGF	
157				Qwetevatevo	West	Gaua	Rainwater	RWH
158				Levetmese	East	Merelava	Rainwater	RWH
159			Lempot 2	West	Gaua	Rainwater	RWH	
160			Lerat	South	Merelava	Rainwater	RWH	
161		Torba	Vatop	North East	Vanualava	Spring	DGF	
162			Lalngetak/Port Patteson	East	Vanualava	Spring	DGF	
163			Tasmate Gorg	West	Mota	Rainwater	RWH	
164			Lency household	East	Mota	Rainwater	RWH	
165			Moi	West	Ureparapara	Spring	DGF	
166			Rah Island	North East	Motalava	Rainwater	DGF / RWH	

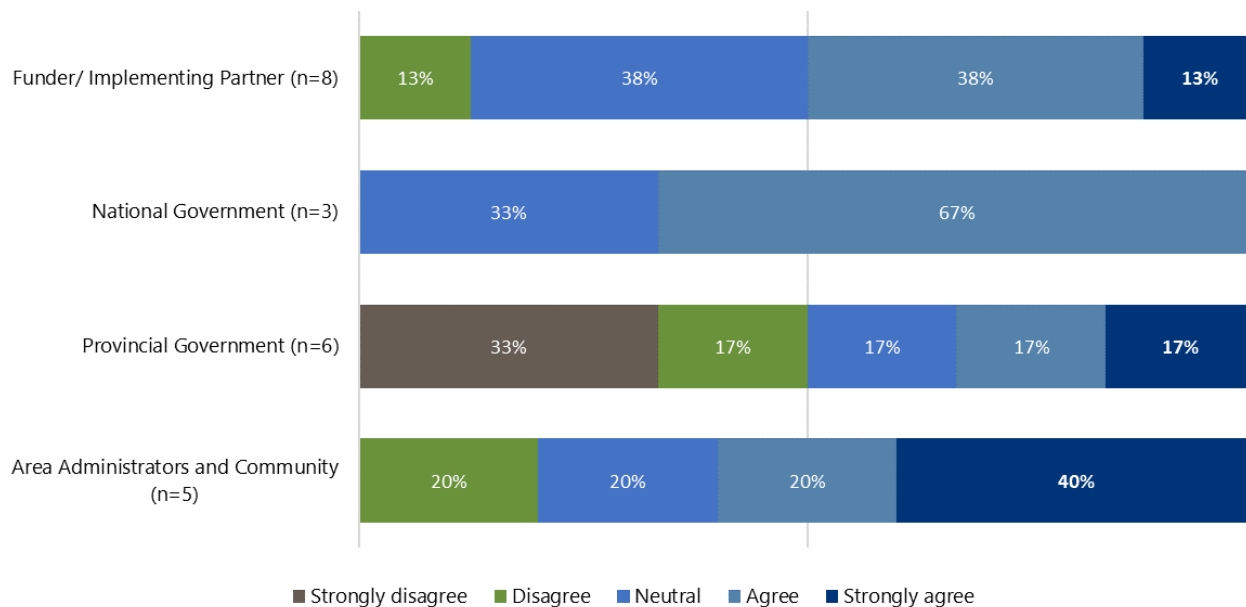
Source: Vanuatu Department of Water Resources, *DWSSP update 2022 spreadsheet*.

Annex 3. Stakeholder interviews rating questions analysis by stakeholder type

The following graphs show how interviewees rated each question and have been disaggregated around stakeholder type/grouping.

Figure 23: Financial resources

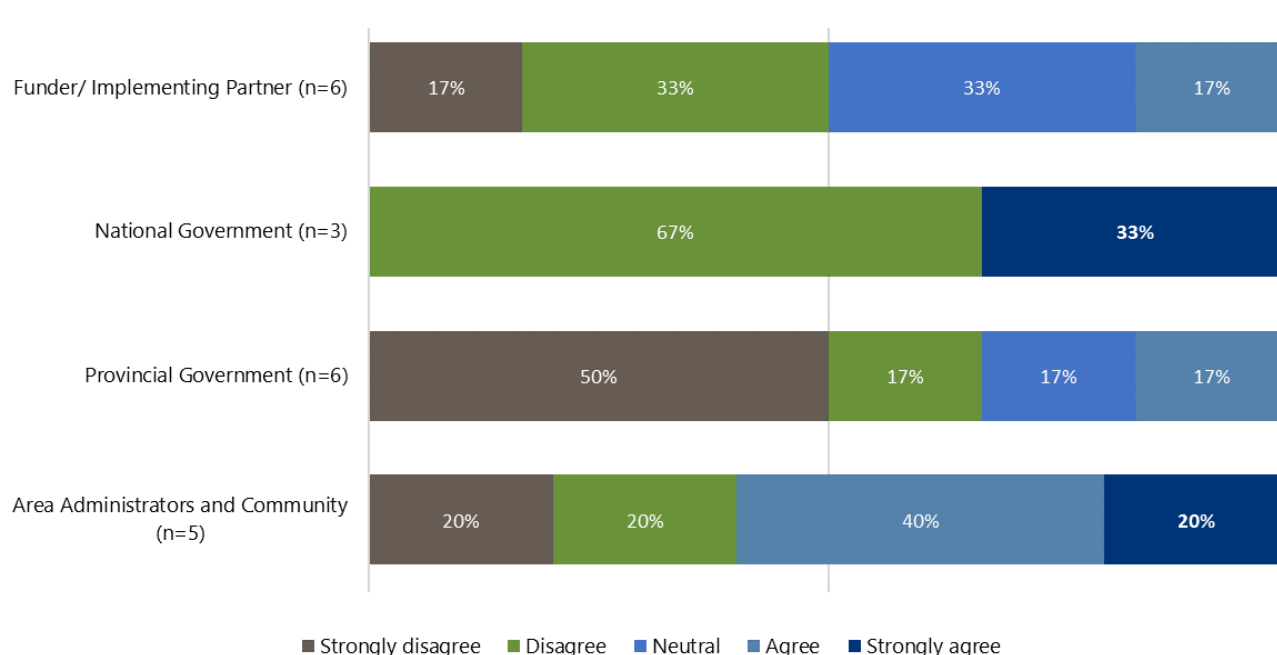
There are sufficient financial resources for the WSP to be sustainable long-term



Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

Figure 24: Human resources

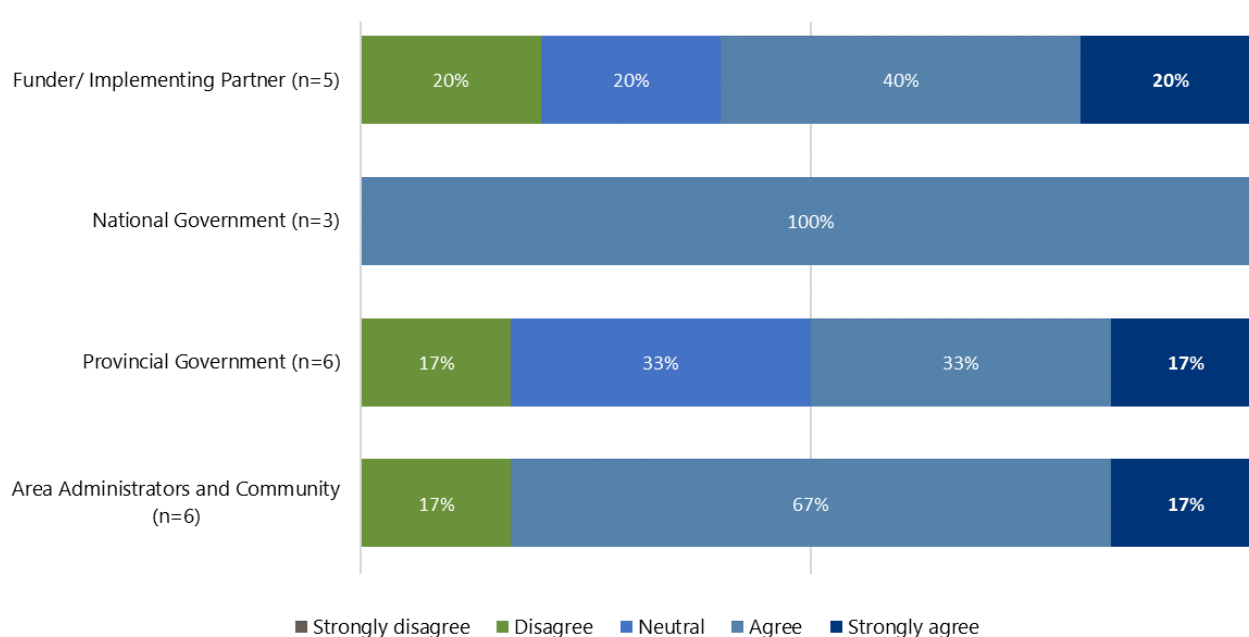
There are sufficient human resources for the WSP to be sustainable long-term



Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

Figure 25: The effectiveness of the VWSP model

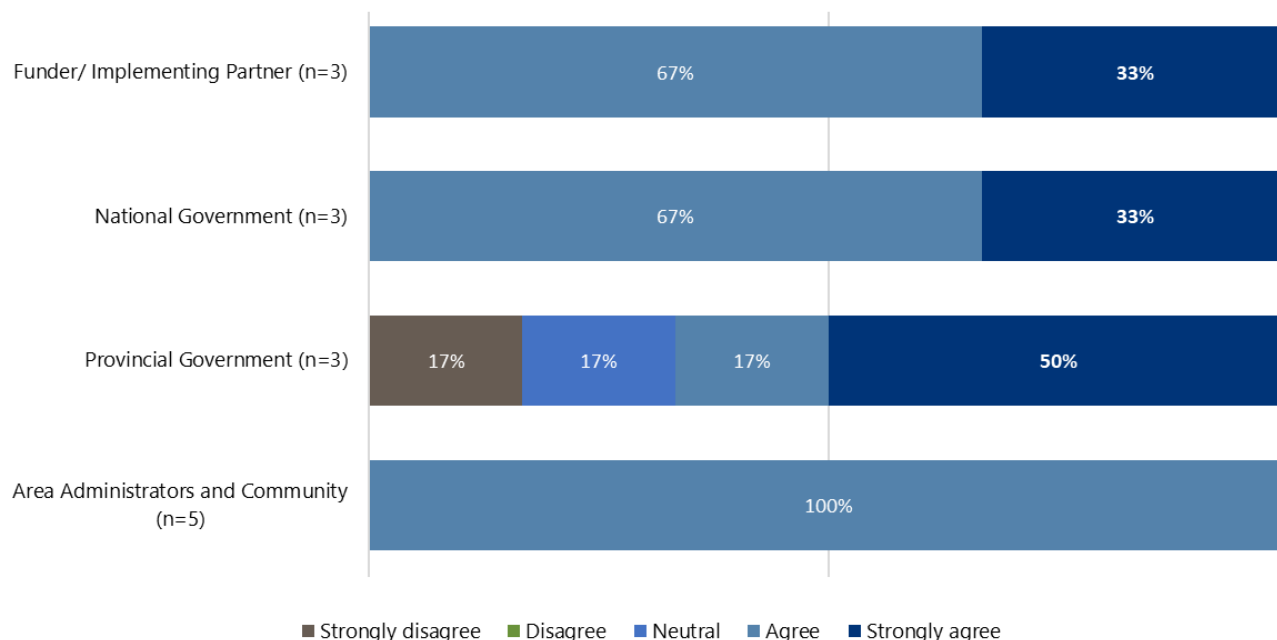
The current model of the WSP is effective



Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

Figure 26: Effective stakeholder collaboration

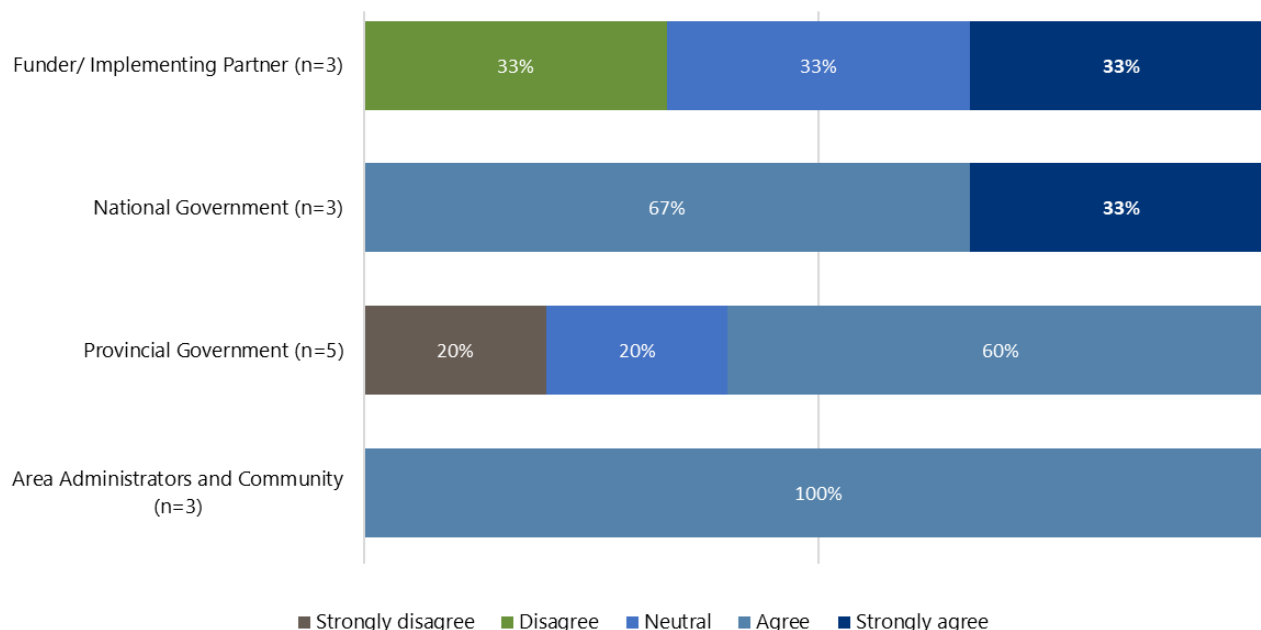
The WSP is designed and implemented in a way that supports effective collaboration amongst stakeholders



Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

Figure 27: Involvement of the right stakeholders

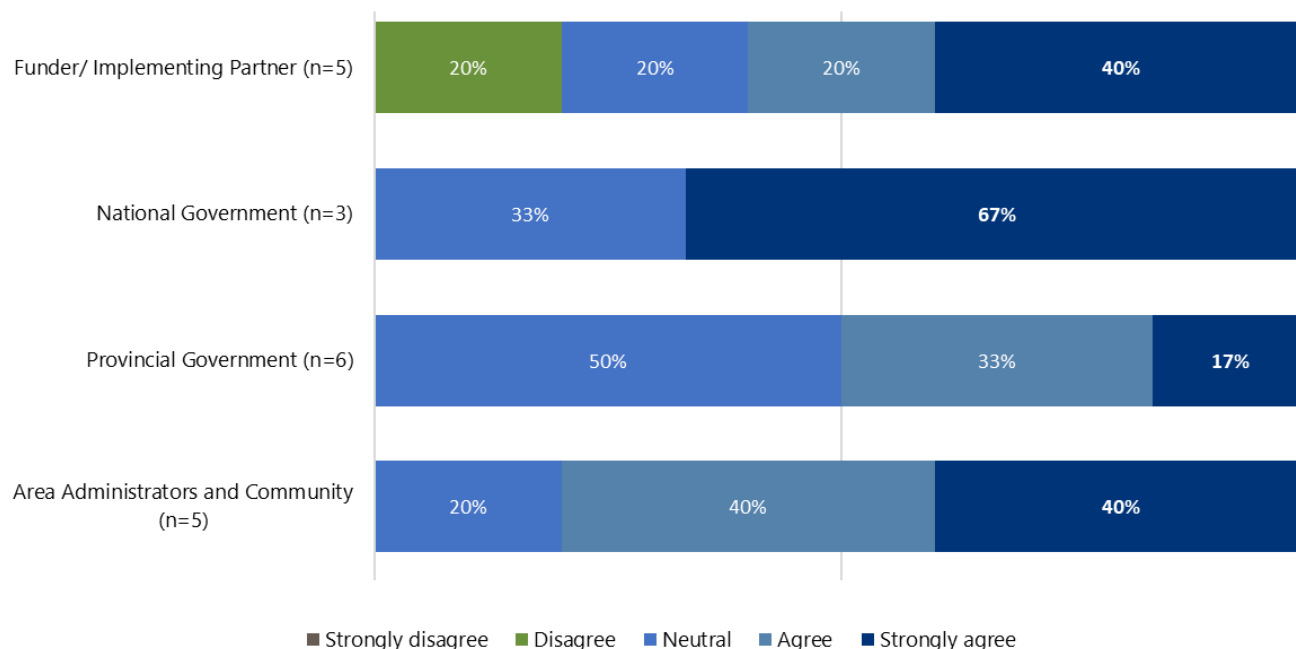
The stakeholders involved in the WSP are the right ones



Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

Figure 28: Achieving the Government’s goal of 100% access to safely managed drinking water by 2030

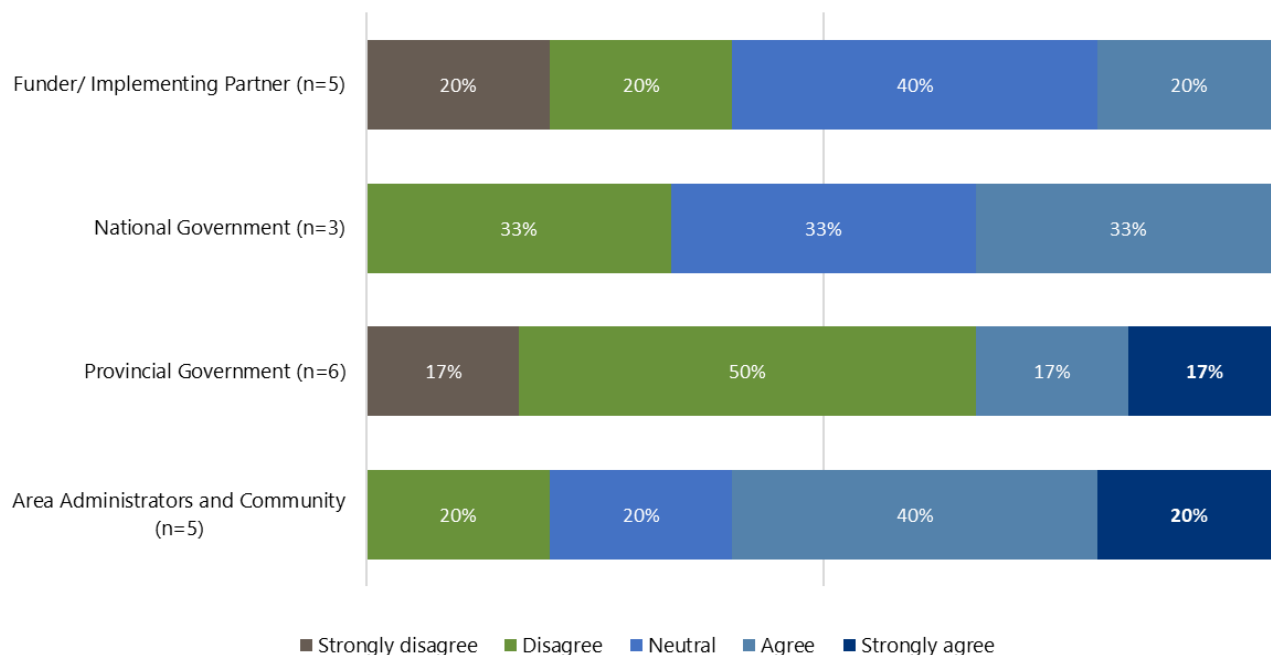
The current WSP model is helping to achieve the Government’s goal of 100% access to safely managed drinking water by 2030



Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

Figure 29: Addressing operation and maintenance issues

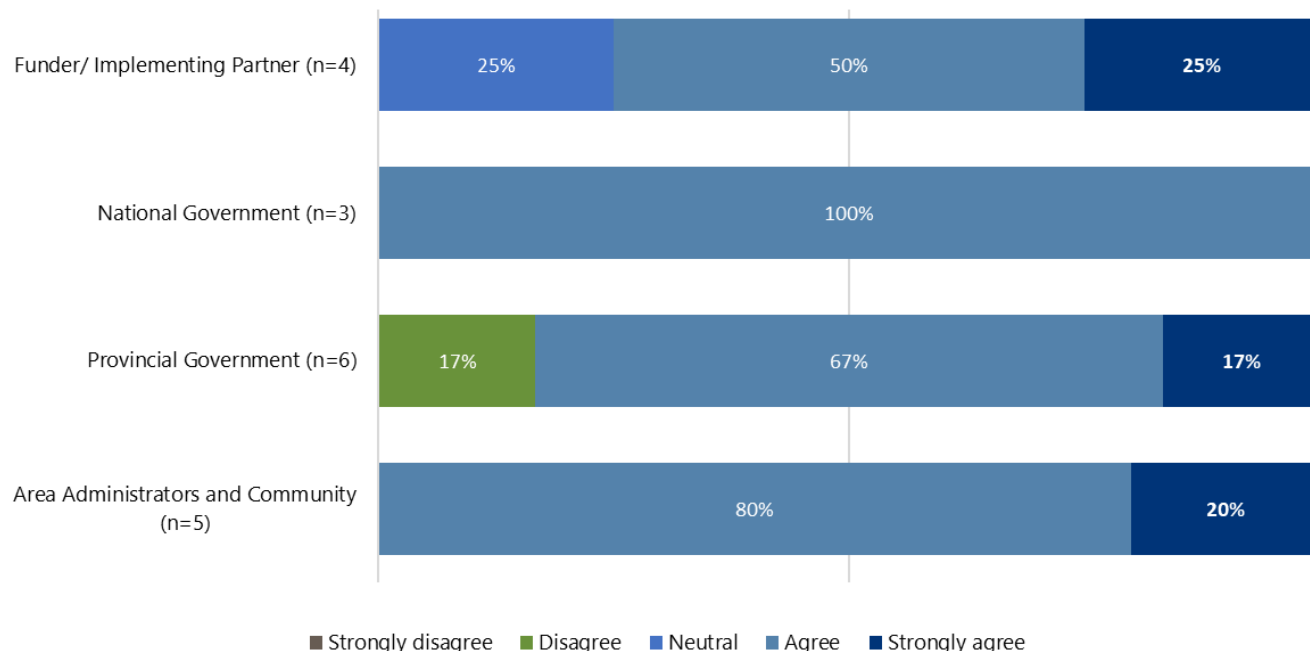
Operation and Maintenance issues are adequately addressed in the WSP



Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

Figure 30: Community resilience to climate change and natural disasters

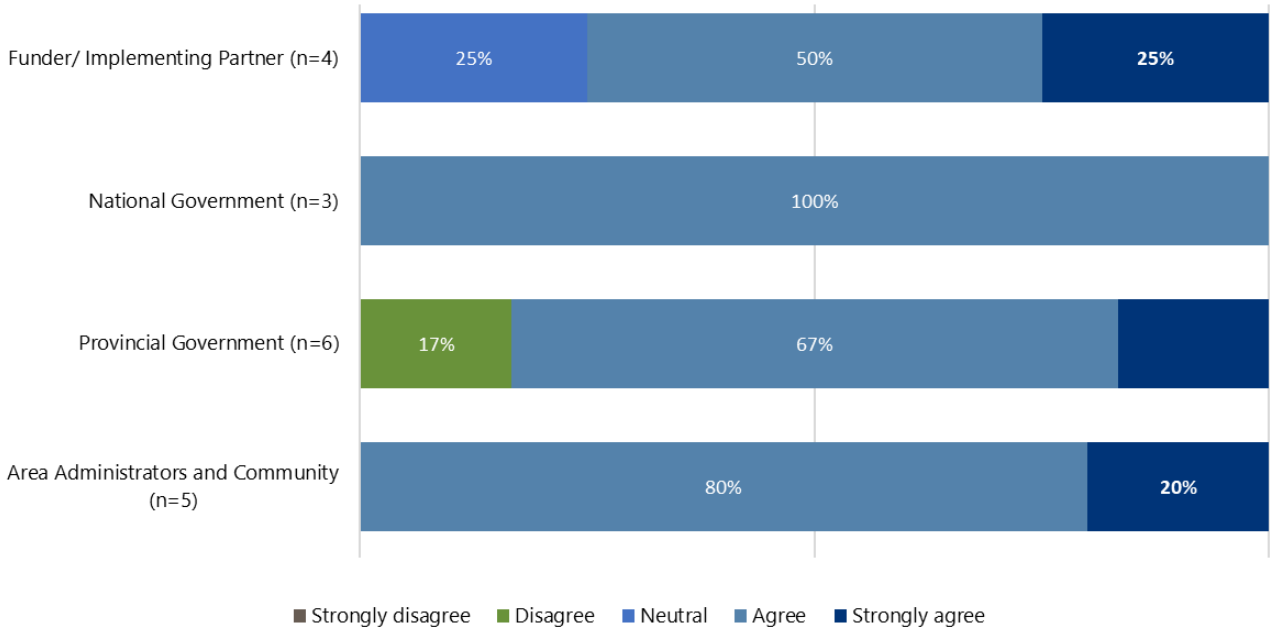
The WSP supports communities to be resilient, including resilience related to climate changes and natural disasters



Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

Figure 31: Gender equality and inclusion

The WSP considers and implements gender equality and inclusion effectively



Source: Vanuatu Water Sector Program stakeholder interviews, March – June 2022.

Annex 4

The following table explains how each of the objectives and KEQs has been addressed in this evaluation report.

Table 9 Key evaluation questions addressed

Objective	KEQ	Where this KEQ has been addressed
Objective 1: To examine the progress towards achieving the Water Sector Partnership (VWSP) outputs and short- and medium-term outcomes (Effectiveness)	1. Where is the Activity doing well and what areas need further strengthening?	Addressed in Section 5 and 6 (strengths and opportunities for further strengthening) and section 7 (recommendations)
	2. Does the Activity structure [contracts with DoWR, UNICEF and Engineers without Borders NZ (EWBNZ)] and its methodology support progress towards outcomes?	
Objective 2: To review the cost effectiveness of the Water Sector Partnership and its' ability to deliver results (Efficiency)	3. Is the Activity making the best use of funding? The evaluation should include an assessment on the funding modality, the quantum of funding, the areas where the funding is going to and how well it is being spent to achieve outputs and outcomes.	Addressed in Section 5 and 6 (strengths and opportunities for further strengthening) and section 7 (recommendations). See section 6 f) Financial sustainability at the local level (g); and g) Adequacy of investment in WASH in Vanuatu overall, in particular. Finance related recommendations are included (see red dot) in the recommendations section.
Objective 3: Future design and support to identify the key changes needed to deliver sustainable outcomes from a second phase of the Vanuatu Water Sector Partnership	4. Will the systems and processes established through the Water Sector Partnership continue to work and deliver benefits to ni-Vanuatu people over time?	See section 5 in particular (strengths) and responses around the effectiveness of the model, and contribution to achieving SDG6 in sections 5 and 6.
	5. Conduct assessment of the relevance of the outputs and outcomes of the Water Sector Partnership. Are the outputs and outcomes still relevant for a second phase? What could be changed?	Addressed in section 7 (recommendations).
	6. Are there gaps or opportunities where New Zealand can support the DoWR to achieve their outcomes?	Addressed in section 6 (opportunities for strengthening) and section 7 (recommendations).
	7. What is the best way for the partners to build on the progress made from 2017 – 2021?	Addressed in section 7 (recommendations).