



WELL-BEING IN VANUATU

2019–2020 NSDP Baseline Survey



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FOREWORD

There is growing global consensus that countries should adopt a more holistic approach to development centered on advancing and maintaining human well-being. Much of the support for well-being-centered governance comes from evidence that Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is not a reflection of human happiness. Launched by our government in January 2017, the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP), also referred to as "The People's Plan", is a great example of a national policy framework based on the needs of the people for purposes of sustainably enhancing and maintaining well-being and happiness.

The aim of producing official statistics on well-being is to ensure that people are thinking about the current state of Vanuatu's well-being from a wide range of perspectives. These include how and why it has changed over time, what population groups are of particular concern, discussion in broad terms on what information is needed for the design and monitoring of better social policies and programs, associated research, and for government and community discussion.

The Government of Vanuatu began collecting data on individual and community well-being in 2010 as part of its initiative to develop and integrate alternative indicators of well-being that reflect Melanesian values. The objective was to supplement standard economic and social indicators with information that provides context for a better picture of the welfare of the population. Several indicators from the pilot study have been adopted as key monitoring and evaluation indicators for the People's Plan, in place through 2030.

The NSDP Baseline Survey represents the single largest collection of household data in Vanuatu's history. We will be able to report on at least 38 key NSDP monitoring and evaluation indicators and 23 UN Sustainable Development Goal target indicators from this data set, making it the single most informative household survey we have completed as a nation. The data will be joined with 2020 National Population and Housing Census data in order to provide valuable estimates of key indicators at the Area Council level. Furthermore, we will also have an opportunity to re-base our Consumer Price Index and National Accounts for the first time since 2006 using the data collected in the baseline survey.

The report you are about to read tells the unique story of well-being in Vanuatu through profiles of happiness, access, knowledge, physical health, and social resilience. The story seeks to incorporate the alternative indicators of well-being with standard metrics to tell one cohesive story that points to both our strengths and our weaknesses. It is up to us as a government and as a nation to find ways to improve the situation for those that are not as fortunate and to create an environment conducive to happiness for everyone in our islands.

It is with great pride we release these findings after several years of preparation, fieldwork, and analysis. Enjoy.



Hon. Johnny Koanapo RASOU
Minister of Finance and Economic Management
Republic of Vanuatu



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2019-2020 NSDP Baseline Survey is an expanded Household Income and Expenditure Survey that collected data critical for informing national economic, social and environmental policy. Despite the critical nature of this collection, funding a survey of this nature in Vanuatu has always been difficult. The Vanuatu National Statistics Office and Government of Vanuatu would like to thank the Government and people of India for contributing two-thirds of the total cost of the NSDP Baseline Survey and acknowledge the UNDP for their role in administering the financial assistance offered with the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.

The survey team benefitted from ongoing support provided by our key regional technical partners at the Statistics for Development Division of the Pacific Community (SPC). The VNSO would like to acknowledge SPC for their role in assisting with survey methodology, questionnaire programming and data processing, specifically by the late Mr. Pierre Wong, Mr. Bertrand Buffiere, Mr. Toga Raikoti, Mr. Luis de la Rua, and Mr. Michael Sharp.

The VNSO would like to acknowledge the great support of the Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination at the Ministry of the Prime Minister that assisted with questionnaire review and promotion of the survey. This partnership has enabled us to produce a significant number of key NSDP indicators for monitoring and evaluation as we continue to gauge progress against our national priorities.

The VNSO would also like to acknowledge all government and non-government agencies that supported the questionnaire review process and provided data needs and justifications for changes. We benefitted from suggestions and modifications to questions from agencies in all sectors and worked closely with DSPPAC Sector Analysts to ensure the data collected is useful for policy. The VNSO is committed to working with you all in the coming years to put this data to use for you.

This report was prepared by Mr. Jamie Tanguay on behalf of the Vanuatu National Statistics Office. Mr. Tanguay is the Project Coordinator for the Melanesian Well-being Indicators, an initiative for which the VNSO would like to acknowledge continued support from The Christensen Fund since 2010. The report has benefited from contributions and comments from staff of the Economic Statistics, Social & Environment Statistics, and Statistical Learning and Coordination units at VNSO.



Mr. KAP Calo Andy
Government Statistician
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

NSDP	National Sustainable Development Plan ("The People's Plan")
UN SDG	United Nations Sustainable Development Goal
VNSO	Vanuatu National Statistics Office
DSPPAC	Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
SPC	The Pacific Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
ILO	International Labor Organization
NEF	New Economics Foundation
HPI	Happy Planet Index
SWB	Subjective Well-being
ExWB	Experienced Well-being
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease
WG	Washington Group

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Key Findings on Well-being – 2019-2020 NSDP Baseline Survey

Profile of Happiness

Mean subjective well-being (SWB) comparisons from 2010-2020 shows overall increases in levels of happiness across all demographic groups and in all areas of Vanuatu. People in rural Sanma Province continue to report a lower mean SWB than elsewhere in the country. While there has been a significant increase in SWB over the last ten years, urban residents are now experiencing higher levels of life satisfaction than those in rural areas—the ‘SWB gap’ between urban and rural areas is increasing.

The data shows the people of Vanuatu experience more happy emotions, and less stress, in the month of July aligning to national Independence celebrations. Stress and worry emotions were significantly higher among people living in Torba Province, previously having held the distinction of the Province with the highest SWB in 2010. Stress is also significantly higher among those that are divorced or separated regardless of gender.

More than half, 57%, of the population ages 15 and over is considered “thriving” based on responses to the SWB series, up from 38% in 2010. A very small proportion, 2%, of the population age 15 and over is considered to be “suffering” based on responses, a slight decrease from 3% in 2010.

Profile of Access

Indigenous land access

Indigenous customary land access is enjoyed by 85% of the population in Vanuatu, down from 87% the last time this indicator was collected in 2012. The vast majority, or 94%, of households with accessible indigenous lands feel it is enough or more than enough to meet the needs of their family, demonstrated by 87% using their accessible lands for both food production and housing. The proportion of those with access to indigenous lands that use their lands for growing food, housing, and livestock has dropped by roughly 4% since 2010.

Benefits of land access – agriculture and livestock

More than four out of every five households in Vanuatu, 83%, have members engaged in farming food crops. For these households, over three-quarters, 76%, are farming on indigenous customary lands, while the other 24% of households farm on leased lands or lands they are using under informal arrangements.

Agricultural practices enable 81% of households in Vanuatu to consume some vegetables and root crops free. Rural consumption of home produced vegetables and root crops is more prevalent than in urban centers, and rural households report a greater variety of vegetables and root crops consumed each week than those in urban centers.

The main vegetables planted and harvested by households included island cabbage¹ (83%), corn (27%), capsicum (24%), beans (22%), tomatoes (22%), and cucumbers (19%). For those households planting and harvesting island cabbage, 72% reported their intentions with planting island cabbage was for family use only.

The main root crops planted and harvested by households included taro (67%), manioc (cassava) (62%), yam (39%), kumala (sweet potato) (37%), and wild yam (27%). For those planting and harvesting dry land or water taro, 65% reported their intentions with planting taro was for family use only.

Kava² is planted and harvested by 24% of farming households. The main purpose for planting kava differs from place to place. Overall, 36% of households planting kava reported the intentions were for sale only, and only 14% of households reported their intentions with kava were for family use only.

More than half, 62%, of households in Vanuatu care for livestock of some kind, and 13% of households reported free weekly consumption of meat or eggs from home production. More than half, 53%, of households care for meat or layer poultry (chicken); 40% of households care for pigs; 24% of households care for cattle, and; 5% of households have goats.

Caring for meat poultry is more prevalent than caring for layer poultry in Vanuatu. More than half, 53%, of households caring for meat poultry report their intentions of having poultry are for family use only.

Most pig owning households are in rural areas—urban municipalities have laws banning home ownership of livestock. Pig owning households in Penama and Tafea Province have, on average, more pigs per owner than in other parts of the country. Nearly one-third, 32%, of households in Penama Province, for example, own more than five pigs, compared with 23% of the rural average. Tafea Province has the highest proportion of pig-owning households owning more than one pig at 87%, compared with 75% of the rural average. Nearly half, 45%, of pig owning households report their intention is for family use only, and just 9% raise pigs only for sale.

Most cattle owning households are in rural areas. Households in rural Sanma Province have the most cattle per household—39% of cattle owning households in rural Sanma Province own more than five cattle, compared with the rural average of 23%. Nearly half, 46%, of cattle owning households report their intention is for family use only, and just 10% raise cattle only for sale.

Land registration and leasing

Indigenous lands are arguably more secure when left under customary tenure—once a piece of land is formally registered it becomes land that can be formally leased. Leasing lands can alienate traditional custodians for up to 75 years, or roughly three generations. The vast majority of households with access to indigenous customary lands have not registered their lands, and just 9% have formally registered and leased part of their lands.

Forest and marine resource access, benefits of access – foraging, fishing and hunting

Almost all people in Vanuatu, 93%, enjoy access to free forest resources including fruit, nuts, cooking fuel, medicinal plants, materials for shelter construction, and more. Nearly three quarters, or 71%, of the population, predominantly those living in coastal communities, enjoy free access to marine resources including fish, crabs, shellfish and more.

¹ Slippery cabbage, or *Abelmoschus manihot*, is commonly referred to as “island cabbage” in Vanuatu.

² Kava, or *Piper methysticum*, is a plant that grows throughout Vanuatu with roots that are commonly used to prepare a beverage with sedative, anesthetic, and euphoriant *properties*.

Free fruits and nuts are consumed by 89% of households in Vanuatu. Rural consumption is more prevalent than in urban centers, and rural households report a greater variety of fruits and nuts consumed each week than those in urban centers.

Just under one-third, 31%, of households in Vanuatu had members actively engaged in fishing, and 29% of households reported consumption of free fish from home production each week. Fishing is most prevalent in Torba Province, where 75% of households have members engaged in fishing activities. Hand lines represented the main fishing methods listed by 39% of fishing households, followed by spearfishing (34%) and nets (20%). Reef fish was reported as a main catch by 80% of fishing households in Vanuatu, followed by invertebrates (16%) and deep-water fish (7%).

Only 4% of households reported having members actively engaged in hunting activities. The greatest proportion of households reporting hunting activity was in rural Sanma Province (11%). The main catch of hunters was reportedly wild pig (60%), wild birds (36%), and flying fox (7%).

Traditional Wealth Item (TWI) access

More than four out of every five households in Vanuatu, 88%, required traditional wealth items for use in ceremonial exchange in the 12-month period before the survey. These included pigs, cattle, chickens, kava, yam or other valuable root crops, and woven mats. Of those requiring these items of traditional value, almost two thirds, 62%, were able to produce them at the household level. Urban households have the same ceremonial requirements as their rural counterparts within their respective culture groups. Nearly three quarters, 74%, of households in urban centers had to purchase items of traditional value in order to participate in ceremonial activities.

Employment, income, and financial services access

Half, 50%, of the working age population age 15 and over is in the labor force in Vanuatu, estimated at 92,177 individuals. A greater proportion of working age men and boys are in the labor force than women and girls. The labor force comprises all persons ages 15 years and above who were found either in employment (with a job for pay or as self-employed in a business), or as unemployed.

Work in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector comprises the majority of employment in most rural areas, with the exception of rural Shefa Province where just over one-third, 36%, of employment is in this sector. The services sector dominates employment in the urban economy and comprises 74% of employment in Luganville and 81% of employment in Port Vila. Manufacturing, considered a component of the industry sector of the economy, represents just 5% of total employment in Vanuatu.

The unemployment rate in Vanuatu stands at 8% (3% in urban centers and 10% in rural areas). The unemployment rate for females ages 15 and over is just over 9% while the rate for males of working age is just under 7%. Youth age 15-24 unemployment is 18%.

Approximately 40% of people ages 15 and over in Vanuatu have access to financial services including bank savings or checking accounts, mobile money services, credit unions, or microfinance. Men and boys age 15 and over have more access to financial services than women and girls.

Services and infrastructure access - housing

Almost two-thirds, 62%, of households in Vanuatu live on indigenous customary land. The vast majority, 92%, of urban households live in housing not located on their customary land. Households headed by men were more likely to be living in housing built on customary lands than those headed by women.

Housing infrastructure is predominantly one family house detached from any other structure, making up 81% of housing in Vanuatu. Housing infrastructure is relatively young—more than half, 56%, of housing in Vanuatu is less than 10 years old. This is likely due to a number of factors including the need for rebuilding structures destroyed in natural disasters, the construction of new housing to meet demands of a growing population, as well as the need to replace housing constructed with renewable natural materials.

Just over one-third, 34%, of housing in Vanuatu is built using renewable local materials, including thatch (a variety of palm species used) and bamboo, as the main materials for roofing and walls. Most, 80%, of households in Vanuatu do most of their cooking in an outdoor kitchen.

Services and infrastructure access – water and sanitation

Improved sources of drinking water are the main sources of drinking water for 87% of households in Vanuatu, up from 79% in 2010. Improvements in access to improved drinking water sources have been in rural areas where 11% more households in 2020 reported an improved source as their main source of drinking water than in 2010. Nearly one-third, 32%, of households in Vanuatu site an improved secondary source of drinking water.

Improved sanitation facilities are used by 79% of households in Vanuatu, a significant increase from 53% in 2010. Improvements in sanitation have led to 10% more households in urban centers, and 31% more households in rural areas, using improved sanitation facilities than in 2010.

Services and infrastructure access - energy

Electricity from an electrical grid³ is the main source of lighting for nearly one-third, 32%, of households in Vanuatu. It is the primary source for 85% of urban households. Renewable solar energy from panels and lamps is the primary source of lighting for 65% of households in Vanuatu, and this is the primary source for 83% of rural households. Solar energy has effectively replaced the use of kerosene as the main source of lighting in rural Vanuatu since 2006.

Firewood is the main source of energy used for cooking for 85% of households in Vanuatu. About half, 51%, of urban households are using firewood to prepare their food, compared to 96% of rural households. There is effectively no change in the use of firewood as the main cooking fuel since 2006.

Services and infrastructure access – communications

A majority, 57%, of people in Vanuatu ages 15 and over own at least one mobile phone in working condition. Mobile phone ownership is enjoyed by two-thirds, 66%, of men and boys ages 15 and over, compared to just 48% of women and girls. Access to mobile communications is shared with 71% of the population ages 15 and over reporting to have used a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls in the 30-day period leading up to the survey. A big majority, 82%, of households in Vanuatu have at least one member that owns a mobile phone.

The internet is used by roughly one-third, 33%, of people ages 15 and over in Vanuatu—more than 50% use internet in urban centers. Mobile phones are a main access point to the internet for 89% of internet users. Less than 20% of internet users are accessing the internet using a home modem or Wi-Fi, at the work place, or at schools.

Between 20%-26% of households in Vanuatu had members that watched television, listened to the radio, and read a newspaper in the month leading up to the survey, and just 7% of households had members accessing the internet using home modem or Wi-Fi. These are indicators of access to news sources as well as access to devices used for communicating early warnings of natural disasters.

³ Electrical grids provide electricity to some households on Efate, parts of Santo, parts of Tanna and parts of Malekula islands.

Services and infrastructure access – distance to essential services

Nearly two-thirds, 64%, of households in Vanuatu are located within walking distance to their nearest health facility, and 68% of households can reach their nearest health facility in 30 minutes or less. A large majority, 86%, of households in Vanuatu are located within walking distance to their nearest school, and 82% of households can reach their nearest school in 30 minutes or less. Police posts are accessed using public or shared transport by 82% of households in Vanuatu. Nearly half, 49%, of households need to travel over one hour to reach their nearest police post.

Public transportation⁴ is most convenient for people living in urban centers and rural Shefa Province, and least convenient for people living in Torba Province. Roads are within 30 minutes walking distance for 85% of the population of Vanuatu. Access to the nearest sea passage requires transport for nearly half, 49%, of the population. A greater proportion, 78%, of people require transport for reaching their nearest airstrip.

Satisfaction with services

Overall, mean level of satisfaction in essential government services, measured on a scale from “not at all satisfied” (0) to “completely satisfied” (10) is 7.27. People living in Port Vila and in Tafea Province had the highest mean levels of satisfaction with government services in the country, with scores of 8.18 and 7.92 respectively. People living in rural Shefa, rural Sanma, and Penama Provinces reported lower satisfaction in government services—5.99, 6.17, and 6.19 respectively. The mean level of trust, measured on a scale from no trust at all (0) to completely trusted (10) is highest nationally for the Vanuatu Civil Service with a mean score of 7.22, followed by the Vanuatu Police Force with a mean score of 6.93 and the Vanuatu Parliament with a mean score of 6.88.

Well-being of access

Thriving individuals in urban and rural areas of Vanuatu are more likely to have access to indigenous lands, which provides them with an opportunity to be more self-reliant economically. Free access to lands and forest and marine resources offers benefits of access to free vegetables and root crops, free fruit and nuts, free meat, eggs, and fish, free firewood, free medicinal resources, free transportation, and free housing for thousands of Ni-Vanuatu today. Land access also provides agricultural employment opportunities. Access to these resources is associated with higher levels of life satisfaction.

Access to employment and financial services is also associated with higher levels of life satisfaction for individuals in urban and rural areas of Vanuatu. Thriving individuals are more likely to be employed and to earn a secure income. Access to mobile phones and internet are also more characteristic of thriving individuals in both urban and rural settings.

Thriving individuals in urban centers live in uncrowded housing and maintain bush kitchens for roasting and baking foods. Near universal access to essential government services and improved drinking water and sanitation is enjoyed in urban centers. In rural areas, where a majority of the population reside, thriving individuals are more likely to live closer to health facilities and have access to improved sources of drinking water.

Profile of Knowledge

Indigenous languages

Indigenous languages are the first languages learned by 80% of the population ages three and over. Bislama is the first language learned for over 40% of those living in urban centers. Two-thirds, 66%, of those ages 3-12 learned an indigenous language first, compared to 95% of the population ages 65 and over.

Indigenous languages are spoken every day by 70% of the population ages 12 and over in Vanuatu, with use that is more infrequent reported in urban centers. Nearly two-thirds of the population ages 12 and over report an ability to read (67%) and write (63%) in an indigenous language. Nearly one in seven people over the age of 12 in urban centers is unable to speak an indigenous local language. The proportion of the population reporting daily use of indigenous languages has dropped by 2% from 2012 to 2020.

Traditional knowledge

Of the population ages 15 and over, nearly half, 45%, have at least a basic level of knowledge of traditional stories, dances, songs and games. These are indicators of shared knowledge of one’s culture group. One in five people in Vanuatu ages 15 and over is deficient, unable to tell one custom story, perform one traditional dance, sing one traditional song, or explain the rules of one traditional game. The figure of deficiency in traditional knowledge jumps to 28% of the youth population ages 15-30.

Traditional knowledge of one’s family history, place, and natural environment is more intimate than cultural group traditional knowledge, but it is equally as tied to one’s identity. Over half, 60%, of the population ages 15 and over have a fuller knowledge of their family history, their lands, the traditional planting calendar, and the names of more than one species of tree. Just 8% of the population has no knowledge of these things.

Traditional production skills

More than half, 56%, of all households have members possessing all five of the basic production skills, including mat weaving, either roof or wall assembly, growing food, preparing roasted food for consumption, and either preparation of traditional leaf medicines or the skill of traditional massage. This is down from 61% of households with the same skills in 2010. Only 1% of households are without any of these basic skills that help keep a family healthy and safe.

Very few households had members engaged in the production of handcrafts with the exception of woven goods, including mats, fans, baskets, hats, and other goods. Just less than one quarter, 24%, of households in Vanuatu have members actively engaged in the production of woven handcrafts—skills typically held by women. Only 14% of households with members engaged in production of woven handcrafts report their intention is to sell all the items produced. The majority of weavers, 78%, produce woven goods mostly or only for family use.

Academic participation and attainment

Most, 91%, of adults ages 25 and over have attended school at some point in their lives and received some level of formal education. More than half, 52%, of adults 25 and over have attained primary school levels 1-8. Only 8% of adults ages 25 and over have attained a post-secondary or university level of formal education. One in ten, or 10%, of women ages 25 and over have never attended school, compared to 7% of men ages 25 and over that have never attended, and men are more likely to have completed Junior Secondary level or higher (42%) than are women (35%).

⁴ Public transportation in Vanuatu includes mini-buses, taxis—both land and water, commercial transportation, as well as registered pickup trucks

Age appropriate education is important, and government sponsored awareness in social media and the radio continues to inform the public that every child should be enrolled in primary school class one at the age of six. Kindy is a preparatory level that instills core educational values and begins socializing children before they begin primary school, and in Vanuatu kindergarten or Early Childhood Education (ECE) is largely community or private sector led.

The NSDP Baseline Survey found that less than half, 48%, of children ages 3-5 were currently attending a Kindergarten or Primary school in Vanuatu, and 87% of children ages 6-13 were currently attending primary school. This means many children are either not benefiting from Kindy/ECE and heading straight into primary school, or that they are beginning Kindy after the age of 5.

Literacy in Bislama, English, and French

Perceived literacy among the three national official languages is highest for Bislama, with more than 90% of the population reporting an ability to read and write in Bislama. English has the second highest perceived literacy with roughly three quarters of the population reporting an ability to read and write in English. Less than one third reporting an ability to read or write in French.

English and French are both official languages of instruction in the formal education system. The vast majority, 84%, of the population ages 12 and over reports an ability to both read and write in either English or French. English is taught to those in the French education system and French is taught in the English education system. As a result, 18% of the population ages 12 and over report an ability to both read and write in both English and French. About two in five of those that completed at least Senior Secondary level of formal education in Vanuatu are literate in both English and French.

Well-being of knowledge

Thriving individuals in urban and rural areas in Vanuatu are more likely to speak an indigenous language with some frequency. Like land and family, language provides roots of cultural identity and is an indicator of traditional knowledge. Traditional knowledge and living in a household that possess basic production skills is beneficial for all people living in rural areas, though it is more characteristic of thriving individuals.

Formal academic training and scholarship have positive impacts on well-being. Thriving individuals in both urban and rural areas are more likely to have attained higher levels of schooling, and be literate in either of the two official languages of instruction (English or French).

Profile of Physical Health

Food Security

Analysis produced by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of food consumption found the prevalence of undernourishment to be 8% in Vanuatu. The prevalence is higher in rural areas (12%) than in urban centers (2%). The Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) asks people about their access to foods, and finds 23% of individuals are experiencing moderate to severe levels of food insecurity in Vanuatu. The “severely food insecure” representing just 2% of the population, were more likely to have faced reduced access to food and/or reductions in the quantity of food consumed and may have experienced hunger. The “moderately food insecure” representing 21% of the population are at a greater risk of malnutrition and poor health because of irregular access to safe and nutritious foods.

Nationally, 84% of households reported their members have sufficient access to healthy local foods. Only 68% of households in rural Sanma Province felt this way, and 73% of households in Torba Province.

Participation in organized sports

Less than 10% of youth ages 13-30 are engaged in an organized sport. Opportunities for youth involvement in organized sport tend to favor males over females. More than half, 54%, of those engaged in organized sport are playing football, followed by 16% involved in playing volleyball.

Kava, tobacco, alcohol, and betel nut consumption

More than one quarter, 27%, of the population ages 15 and over drink kava at least once a week. Kava drinking is most prevalent in Torba and Penama Provinces, and among men and boys 15 and over.

One in five people ages 15 and over in Vanuatu smoke local tobacco or cigarettes, and 7% smoke tobacco every day. Smoking is more prevalent in Penama and Torba Provinces, and among men and boys 15 and over. There are signs that people can reform bad health behavior successfully in Vanuatu—3% of the population ages 15 and over were regular smokers that have since quit.

Alcohol is consumed regularly by 6% of the population ages 15 and over in Vanuatu and is more prevalent in urban centers where one in ten people ages 15 and over drink alcohol at least once a week. Males are more likely to consume alcohol regularly—one in ten males, 10%, reported drinking alcohol at least once a week—than females with only 2% reporting regular consumption of alcohol. Those in de facto relationships, as well as those that have gone through a divorce or separation, are also more likely to drink regularly—11% reporting drinking at least once a week—than those that are married, never married, or widowed. The relationship between educational attainment and substance use is most evident with alcohol consumption. Higher levels of formal education attainment, and the higher income that follows education, show increased prevalence of consumption of alcohol.

Betel nut is not consumed regularly in most parts of Vanuatu, however, 8% of the population in Torba Province ages 15 and over consume betel nut at least once a week. Consumption of betel nut in Torba Province is driven by males ages 15 and over—17% of whom are consuming it regularly, compared with less than 1% of females.

DPT3 Immunization

Less than half, 47%, of children between the ages of 0-4 have received the recommended regimen of immunization preventing diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus known as DPT3⁵. Regional variations in success of this immunization program suggest significant challenges in Malampa and Torba Provinces, where 9% and 15% of the respective 0-4 age populations have received DPT3 immunizations.

Chronic and non-chronic illness

More than one quarter, 28%, of the population self-reported a non-chronic health problem (examples: diarrhea, cold and flu, bodily injury, sores) within the 30 days leading up to the survey. Non-chronic health problems were more prevalent in Torba and Penama Provinces. Nearly two thirds, 63%, of all households in Vanuatu have at least one member with a non-chronic health problem—62% of households headed by men, compared with 66% of households headed by women.

Chronic conditions were reported by 9% of the population ages 15 and over in Vanuatu. These include non-communicable diseases as well as conditions that are difficult to reverse. Chronic illness is more prevalent in Luganville, as well as in Torba and Penama Provinces where more than 10% of the population ages 15 and over have at least one lifelong health condition. Females were more likely to have reported a chronic illness than males, and nearly one quarter, 24%, of people ages 65 and over reported a chronic

⁵ Coverage of DPT3 considers all children age 12-59 months who have received three doses of the combined diphtheria, tetanus toxoid and pertussis vaccine.

illness. People that completed at least a primary school education (class 8) were less likely to have reported a chronic illness. One quarter, 25%, of households in Vanuatu have at least one member with a chronic illness.

Disability

Washington Group standards were used to determine the prevalence of disability in Vanuatu at 6% of the population ages five and over, or approximately 16,410 individuals. Prevalence was higher in the Northern provinces and Luganville than in the southern half of the country. The greatest prevalence is among those ages 65 and over at 32%. Prevalence dropped for those that completed at least class 8 in the formal education system. Seeing was the most prevalent form of functional difficulty among those with a disability. About one in five households in Vanuatu, 21% has at least one member living with a disability—22% of households headed by men and 18% of households headed by women.

Well-being of physical health

Thriving individuals in Vanuatu are more likely to be free of illness and have security in their access to adequate food supply at all times. Chronically ill individuals and individuals with physical limitations are much less likely to thrive than those that do not. It is important for young people in particular to involve themselves in positive health behaviors, such as that offered by organized sport, and to avoid bad healthy behaviors like smoking tobacco or excessive alcohol or tobacco use.

Profile of Social Resilience

Social support

A great majority, 82%, of people in Vanuatu ages 15 and over have someone they can count on in times of sickness or health need. Support for health needs is highest in rural Shefa and Tafea Provinces and lowest in Torba Province.

More than three quarters, 77%, of people in Vanuatu ages 15 and over have someone they can count on in times of financial trouble. Support for financial needs is highest in rural Shefa Province and lowest in Torba Province.

The social “safety net” in terms of the proportion of the population that have support systems that can help them in times of need has shrunk by roughly 10% since 2010.

Reciprocity and exchange

More than three quarters, 78%, of the population ages 15 and over give unpaid support to others in their community or area each year—80% of males and 76% of females. This support comes in the form of time and labor to help prepare land for food crops, help build or repair household structures, prepare meals for community feasting, do work ordered by a Chief or community leader, care for another’s children, or care for another’s livestock.

Reciprocity, measured as the ratio of giving to receiving, is highest among people in Tafea, rural Sanma and Penama Provinces. In all three of these areas, nearly everyone that gives support to others reports receiving support from others. Giving and receiving unpaid voluntary support are both negatively associated with higher educational attainment.

The act of giving and receiving unpaid voluntary support to or from another individual in one’s community or area has decreased nationally since 2010 by 5% (drop in giving support) and 13% (drop in receiving support). This is another sign that the social safety net is weakening or getting smaller and leaving some people without the support they may need.

About two in five rural households, 42%, exchange goods with family based in urban centers. More than half of the households in Penama Province (66%) and Malampa Province (62%) engage in exchange of goods with family in urban centers.

Equality

Inequality in Vanuatu is low relative to other countries in the Asia Pacific region, as measured by the Gini Coefficient⁶. A lower Gini value means that there is more equal distribution of welfare across the population than if the Gini value was higher. The Gini Index for Vanuatu is 32.9 based on per capita consumption, meaning that the most well off 10% of individuals consume 7.92 times more than the poorest 10% does. The vast majority, 78%, of households in Vanuatu reported feeling “equal” with others in their area or community. Only 9% of households feel that they are better off, and 5% feel they are worse off than other households in their area or community are.

Trust and safety in the community

Trust in others is highest in Penama, Torba and Tafea Provinces, and lowest in Port Vila. Trust in others drops with higher education up through Junior Secondary.

Three in five people ages 15 and over in Vanuatu, 60%, feel safe when walking alone in their community after dark. Feelings of safety are highest in Tafea Province, where 85% of the population feels safe when walking alone in their community after dark and lowest in Luganville where just 30% feel safe doing the same. Two thirds, 66%, of men and boys ages 15 and over enjoy feeling safe in their communities compared to 53% of women and girls. More women and girls ages 15 and over in Luganville and rural Sanma Province reported feeling unsafe walking alone in their community or area than women in any other part of the country—nearly three out of every four women and girls, 74%, in Luganville reported not feeling safe in their area, compared with 48% in Port Vila and 21% in Tafea.

Discrimination

About one in five people ages 15 and over, 16%, experienced discrimination on the basis of their race, place of national or ethnic origin, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, or disability in the 12 months leading up to the survey. Prevalence of experienced discrimination in any form was progressively higher from south to north, with only 5% of people in Tafea Province reporting to have experienced discrimination compared to nearly one third, 32%, in Torba Province. More than one-third, 37%, of people that have been divorced or separated experience discrimination.

The most prevalent form of experienced discrimination is based on family status—10% of those ages 15 and higher experience discrimination of this kind. Discrimination based on family status is likely a product of political influences that make things possible for some people while closing the door on others. Prevalence on other bases drops to 5% for religion, 4% for marital status, and 3% or less for age, sex, sexual orientation, race, color, ethnicity or disability.

⁶ The Gini Coefficient is a measure of the deviation of the distribution of income among individuals or households within a country from a perfectly equal distribution. A value of 0 represents absolute equality, a value of 100 absolute inequality.

Theft and vandalism

About one in five households, 21%, reported at least one incident of theft in the 12 months leading up to the survey, and 8% reported at least one incident of vandalism. Both theft and vandalism are most prevalent in Malampa Province, where 37% of households experienced at least one incident of theft and 11% experienced at least one incident of vandalism within the 12-month period.

Community governance and participation

Less than half, 45%, of all households in Vanuatu gave positive overall assessments of their Chiefs' performances in four key performance categories⁷. This is down from 68% of households having overall positive assessments of their Chiefs in all four performance categories in 2010. Nearly one in five households, 18%, gave negative assessments of their chiefs in all four performance categories, up from just 4% in 2010.

More than three-quarters, 79%, of households have members that attend some or all meetings regularly held by their community. Just under half, 45%, of households in urban centers report never attending any regular meetings or report that there are no regular community meetings to attend.

Agency

Agency, defined as the level of agreement with the statement, "I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area / community" measured on an 11-point scale from agree completely (10) to disagree completely (0), is highest in Malampa (6.33) and Torba (6.01) Provinces and lowest in Luganville (2.62). Men and boys ages 15 and over enjoy slightly more perceived agency (4.33) than women and girls (4.02). Sense of agency increases with age—individuals ages 15-30 report a mean level of agreement score of 3.50 compared to the score for those ages 31-64 (4.73) and 65 and over (4.86).

Ceremonial participation

The vast majority, 93%, of households in Vanuatu have members participating in at least one traditional ceremony each year. Participation is relatively the same in rural and urban areas. Less than half, 45%, of households participated in three or more death or funeral ceremonies a year. Funeral ceremonies have typically more than one event that span from five days to 365 days depending on the circumstance. More than one quarter, 27%, of households participated in three or more marriage wedding ceremonies a year. Wedding ceremonies, like funerals, feature multiple events spread out over a time span agreed to by both parties.

Circumcision ceremonies are more prevalent in Malampa and Tafea Provinces. Less than half, 46%, of households in Malampa Province, and 40% of households in Tafea Province, had members participating in at least one circumcision ceremony a year.

Rank or grade-taking ceremonies, together with peace or reconciliation ceremonies, have participation from one-third, 33% of households in Vanuatu a year. The highest proportion of households taking part in rank or grade-taking ceremonies annually is 71% in Penama Province; the lowest is 10% in rural Shefa Province.

⁷ Main respondents are asked if they are satisfied or unsatisfied with the performance of their Chief with regard to dispute resolution, communication, respect for customs and traditions, and management of community resources.

Well-being of social resilience

Thriving individuals have people they can count on in times of need. Cooperation and participation in ceremonial and community activities is an important contribution to the social safety net individuals must work to build and maintain, even when based in urban areas. It is all of our responsibility to give as much or more of ourselves as we receive from others.

Feeling safe from violent attack, trusting others, and having a perceived impact on decisions made in one's community is characteristic of thriving individuals in both urban and rural areas. Community leaders must work to bring people together and make everyone feel a valued part of their communities.



Summary Table of Key NSDP Indicators

NSDP Indicator ID	Indicator Name	Status
SOCIETY 1: A Nation based on traditional governance and Christian principles, which underpin our culture and continue to bestow life skills and knowledge to future generations		
SOC 1.1.1	Proportion of population speaking indigenous language daily	70%
	Proportion of population age 12+ speaking at least one indigenous language every day	70%
	Proportion of population age 12+ speaking at least one indigenous language every day (males)	70%
	Proportion of population age 12+ speaking at least one indigenous language every day (females)	69%
	Proportion of population age 12+ speaking at least one indigenous language every day (rural)	83%
	Proportion of population age 12+ speaking at least one indigenous language every day (urban)	34%
SOC 1.1.2	Proportion of population first language learned indigenous	80%
	Proportion of population age 3+ that learned to speak an indigenous language first	80%
	Proportion of population age 3+ that learned to speak an indigenous language first (males)	80%
	Proportion of population age 3+ that learned to speak an indigenous language first (females)	79%
	Proportion of population age 3+ that learned to speak an indigenous language first (rural)	88%
	Proportion of population age 3+ that learned to speak an indigenous language first (urban)	56%
SOC 1.2.1	Proportion of population with knowledge of traditional stories, dances, songs, and games	45%
	Proportion of population age 15+ with knowledge of at least one of each (traditional story, dance, song and game)	45%
	Proportion of population age 15+ with knowledge of at least one of each (traditional story, dance, song and game) (males)	48%
	Proportion of population age 15+ with knowledge of at least one of each (traditional story, dance, song and game) (females)	42%
	Proportion of population age 15+ with knowledge of at least one traditional story	76%
	Proportion of population age 15+ with knowledge of at least one traditional dance	57%
	Proportion of population age 15+ with knowledge of at least one traditional song	57%
	Proportion of population age 15+ with knowledge of at least one traditional game	57%
SOC 1.2.2	Proportion of population possessing common and basic traditional production skills related to weaving, transport, housing, farming, food preparation	56%
	Proportion of households with members that possess all five basic production skills related to housing, food production and food preparation	56%
	Proportion of households with members that possess all five basic production skills related to housing, food production and food preparation (rural)	67%
	Proportion of households with members that possess all five basic production skills related to housing, food production and food preparation (urban)	23%
	Proportion of population age 15+ able to weave a mat	35%
	Proportion of population age 15+ able to weave a mat (males)	2%
	Proportion of population age 15+ able to weave a mat (females)	68%
	Proportion of population age 15+ able to assemble thatch roofing	52%
	Proportion of population age 15+ able to assemble thatch roofing (males)	46%
	Proportion of population age 15+ able to assemble thatch roofing (females)	57%
	Proportion of population age 15+ able to produce walls from local materials	39%
	Proportion of population age 15+ able to produce walls from local materials (males)	54%
	Proportion of population age 15+ able to produce walls from local materials (females)	23%
	Proportion of population age 15+ able to plant food crops	88%
	Proportion of population age 15+ able to plant food crops (males)	89%
Proportion of population age 15+ able to plant food crops (females)	88%	
Proportion of population age 15+ able to prepare food by roasting	87%	
Proportion of population age 15+ able to prepare food by roasting (males)	87%	
Proportion of population age 15+ able to prepare food by roasting (females)	87%	

SOC 1.2.3	Proportion of population with ability to 1) produce herbal medicines, and 2) massage	
	Proportion of population age 15+ with ability to produce traditional herbal medicines	43%
	Proportion of population age 15+ with ability to produce traditional herbal medicines (males)	48%
	Proportion of population age 15+ with ability to produce traditional herbal medicines (females)	37%
	Proportion of population age 15+ with ability to produce traditional herbal medicines (rural)	50%
	Proportion of population age 15+ with ability to produce traditional herbal medicines (urban)	24%
	Proportion of population age 15+ with ability to perform traditional massage	17%
	Proportion of population age 15+ with ability to perform traditional massage (males)	16%
	Proportion of population age 15+ with ability to perform traditional massage (females)	17%
		Proportion of population age 15+ with ability to perform traditional massage (rural)
	Proportion of population age 15+ with ability to perform traditional massage (urban)	9%
SOC 1.7.1	Proportion of population with free access to traditional lands, forest and marine resources	
	Proportion of population with free access to indigenous customary lands	85%
	Proportion of population with free access to indigenous customary lands (males)	85%
	Proportion of population with free access to indigenous customary lands (females)	85%
	Proportion of population with free access to indigenous customary lands (rural)	92%
	Proportion of population with free access to indigenous customary lands (urban)	65%
	Proportion of population with free access to forest resources	93%
	Proportion of population with free access to forest resources (males)	93%
	Proportion of population with free access to forest resources (females)	93%
	Proportion of population with free access to forest resources (rural)	100%
	Proportion of population with free access to forest resources (urban)	75%
	Proportion of population with free access to marine resources	71%
	Proportion of population with free access to marine resources (males)	71%
	Proportion of population with free access to marine resources (females)	71%
	Proportion of population with free access to marine resources (rural)	79%
	Proportion of population with free access to marine resources (urban)	48%
SOC 1.7.2	Proportion of population that use traditional lands for agriculture, marine, forestry and livestock for consumption or customary purposes	
	Proportion of households that use traditional lands for growing their food crops	94%
	Proportion of households that use traditional lands for growing their food crops (rural)	94%
	Proportion of households that use traditional lands for growing their food crops (urban)	92%
	Proportion of households that use traditional lands for tending their livestock	82%
	Proportion of households that use traditional lands for tending their livestock (rural)	91%
	Proportion of households that use traditional lands for tending their livestock (urban)	45%
	Proportion of households that use traditional lands for their timber	41%
	Proportion of households that use traditional lands for their timber (rural)	43%
	Proportion of households that use traditional lands for their timber (urban)	34%
SOCIETY 2: An inclusive and equitable quality education system with life-long learning for all		
SOC 2.1.1 (p)	Percentage of age 6 in Yr. 1 who attended kindergarten	
	Kindy attended rate, proportion of the population age 3–5 currently attending Kindy or Primary	48%
	Kindy attended rate, proportion of the population age 3–5 currently attending Kindy or Primary (males)	48%
	Kindy attended rate, proportion of the population age 3–5 currently attending Kindy or Primary (females)	49%
	Kindy attended rate, proportion of the population age 3–5 currently attending Kindy or Primary (rural)	49%
	Kindy attended rate, proportion of the population age 3–5 currently attending Kindy or Primary (urban)	45%
SOC 2.1.2 (p)	Survival rates Yrs. 1–6, 1–13	
	Primary attended rate, proportion of the population age 6–13 currently attending Primary	87%
	Primary attended rate, proportion of the population age 6–13 currently attending Primary (males)	86%
	Primary attended rate, proportion of the population age 6–13 currently attending Primary (females)	88%
	Primary attended rate, proportion of the population age 6–13 currently attending Primary (rural)	86%
	Primary attended rate, proportion of the population age 6–13 currently attending Primary (urban)	92%

SOCIETY 3: A healthy population that enjoys a high quality of physical, mental, spiritual and social well-being	
SOC 3.3.1	Diphtheria tetanus toxoid and pertussis (DTP3) immunization coverage among 1 year old (%)
	Proportion of population age 0–4 that have received all three DPT3 immunizations 47%
	Proportion of population age 0–4 that have received all three DPT3 immunizations (males) 46%
	Proportion of population age 0–4 that have received all three DPT3 immunizations (females) 47%
	Proportion of population age 0–4 that have received all three DPT3 immunizations (rural) 43%
	Proportion of population age 0–4 that have received all three DPT3 immunizations (urban) 57%
SOCIETY 4: An inclusive society which upholds human dignity and where the rights of all Ni-Vanuatu including women, youth, vulnerable groups and the elderly are supported, protected and promoted in our legislation and institutions	
SOC 4.2.1	Subjective Well-being
	Mean Subjective Well-being, 0–10, population ages 15 and over 8.45
	Mean Subjective Well-being, 0–10, population age 15 and over (males) 8.50
	Mean Subjective Well-being, 0–10, population age 15 and over (females) 8.41
	Mean Subjective Well-being, 0–10, population age 15 and over (youth 15-30) 8.61
SOC 4.3.1	Proportion of population reporting some degree of disability
	Washington Group inclusive of "some" functional difficulty 6.36%
	Washington Group inclusive of "some" functional difficulty (males) 6.84%
	Washington Group inclusive of "some" functional difficulty (females) 5.86%
	Washington Group inclusive of "some" functional difficulty (rural) 6.92%
	Washington Group inclusive of "some" functional difficulty (urban) 4.81%
SOC 4.6.2 (p)	Proportion of youth age 13–30 that feel valued in society
	Proportion of youth ages 15–30 that are thriving 62%
	Proportion of youth ages 15–30 that are thriving (males) 65%
	Proportion of youth ages 15–30 that are thriving (females) 60%
	Proportion of youth ages 15–30 that are thriving (rural) 60%
	Proportion of youth ages 15–30 that are thriving (urban) 67%
	Mean level of agreement, "I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area/community", 0–10, youth age 15–30 5.75
	Mean level of agreement, "I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area/community", 0–10, youth age 15–30 (males) 6.01
	Mean level of agreement, "I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area/community", 0–10, youth age 15–30 (females) 5.52
	Mean level of agreement, "I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area/community", 0–10, youth age 15–30 (rural) 5.95
	Mean level of agreement, "I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area/community", 0–10, youth age 15–30 (urban) 5.75
SOC 4.7.1	Proportion of youth actively participating in at least one organized sport in the last 12 months by gender
	Proportion of youth age 13–30 actively participating in at least one organized sport in the last 12 months 8%
	Proportion of youth age 13–30 actively participating in at least one organized sport in the last 12 months (males) 11%
	Proportion of youth age 13–30 actively participating in at least one organized sport in the last 12 months (females) 5%
	Proportion of youth age 13–30 actively participating in at least one organized sport in the last 12 months (rural) 7%
	Proportion of youth age 13–30 actively participating in at least one organized sport in the last 12 months (urban) 9%
SOCIETY 5: A society where the rule of law is consistently upheld, and access to timely justice is available to everyone	
SOC 5.1.3	Average cost of legal fees/services for a court case
	Average annual household expenditure on legal services VT 134

SOC 5.5.2 (p)	Incidents of theft and vandalism reported annually to the police (and the proportion of reported incidents to unreported)
	Proportion of households that experienced at least one incident of theft in last 12 months 21%
	Proportion of households that experienced at least one incident of theft in last 12 months (rural) 22%
	Proportion of households that experienced at least one incident of theft in last 12 months (urban) 15%
	Proportion of households that experienced at least one incident of vandalism in last 12 months 8%
	Proportion of households that experienced at least one incident of vandalism in last 12 months (rural) 7%
	Proportion of households that experienced at least one incident of vandalism in last 12 months (urban) 9%
SOC 5.5.3	Proportion of population with positive assessment of their chief's ability to resolve disputes peacefully
	Proportion of households with favorable assessment of their Chief's ability to resolve disputes 62%
	Proportion of households with favorable assessment of their Chief's ability to resolve disputes (rural) 67%
	Proportion of households with favorable assessment of their Chief's ability to resolve disputes (urban) 45%
SOCIETY 6: A dynamic public sector with good governance principles and strong institutions delivering the support and services expected by all citizens of Vanuatu	
SOC 6.3.1	Proportion of eligible population reporting to have voted in last election
	Proportion of population age 18 and over reporting having voted in last election 86%
	Proportion of population age 18 and over reporting having voted in last election (males) 88%
	Proportion of population age 18 and over reporting having voted in last election (females) 85%
	Proportion of population age 18 and over reporting having voted in last election (rural) 89%
	Proportion of population age 18 and over reporting having voted in last election (urban) 81%
SOC 6.3.2 (p)	Proportion of population with an overall positive assessment of their local elected officials
	Mean level of trust in the Vanuatu Parliament, 0–10 6.88
	Mean level of trust in the Vanuatu Parliament, 0–10 (males) 6.77
	Mean level of trust in the Vanuatu Parliament, 0–10 (females) 7.00
	Mean level of trust in the Vanuatu Parliament, 0–10 (rural) 6.60
	Mean level of trust in the Vanuatu Parliament, 0–10 (urban) 7.42
SOC 6.7.1	Proportion of population utilizing media outlets for news including: newspapers, mobile phones, radio, television, and internet
	Proportion of households with members that read a newspaper at least once a month 20%
	Proportion of households with members that read a newspaper at least once a month (rural) 9%
	Proportion of households with members that read a newspaper at least once a month (urban) 53%
	Proportion of population that use a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month 71%
	Proportion of population that use a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month (males) 77%
	Proportion of population that use a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month (females) 66%
	Proportion of population that use a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month (rural) 67%
	Proportion of population that use a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month (urban) 82%
	Proportion of households with members that listen to radio at least once a month 26%
	Proportion of households with members that listen to radio at least once a month (rural) 18%
	Proportion of households with members that listen to radio at least once a month (urban) 51%
	Proportion of households with members that watch television at least once a month 21%
	Proportion of households with members that watch television at least once a month (rural) 10%
	Proportion of households with members that watch television at least once a month (urban) 55%
	Proportion of population that accesses the internet at least once a month 33%
	Proportion of population that accesses the internet at least once a month (males) 37%
	Proportion of population that accesses the internet at least once a month (females) 29%
	Proportion of population that accesses the internet at least once a month (rural) 24%
	Proportion of population that accesses the internet at least once a month (urban) 57%

ENVIRONMENT 1: A nation that ensures our food and nutrition security needs are adequately met for all people through increasing sustainable food production systems and improving household production		
ENV 1.1.1	Proportion of households engaged in production of food for own consumption Proportion of households with members engaged in production of food crops for home consumption <i>Proportion of households with members engaged in production of food crops for home consumption (rural)</i> <i>Proportion of households with members engaged in production of food crops for home consumption (urban)</i>	83% 97% 42%
ENV 1.1.2	Up to date data on primary production (agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries, biosecurity) available for analysis and informed decision making and reporting <i>Basic production and consumption information collected through the 2019-2020 NSDP Baseline Survey available for analysis and reporting</i>	Available June 2021
ENV 1.1.3	Average incidence of food poverty at the household level (Food Poverty Line) Food Poverty Rate, Proportion of population living below the food poverty line <i>Food Poverty Rate, Proportion of population living below the food poverty line (rural)</i> <i>Food Poverty Rate, Proportion of population living below the food poverty line (urban)</i>	5.7% 7.6% 0.3%
ENVIRONMENT 2: An economy which fosters sustainable growth and development through low impact industries and modern technologies to ensure the wellbeing of future generations		
ENV 2.3.2	Proportion of households using renewable energy technology as main source of lighting Proportion of households using renewable solar energy as main source of lighting, including solar panels and solar lanterns <i>Proportion of households using renewable solar energy as main source of lighting, including solar panels and solar lanterns (rural)</i> <i>Proportion of households using renewable solar energy as main source of lighting, including solar panels and solar lanterns (urban)</i>	65% 83% 13%
ENVIRONMENT 3: A strong and resilient nation in the face of climate change and disaster risks posed by natural and man-made hazards		
ENV 3.2.2	Proportion of population with access to technologies that convey early warnings Proportion of population age 15 and over, using a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month <i>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month (males)</i> <i>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month (females)</i> <i>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month (rural)</i> <i>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls at least once a month (urban)</i> Proportion of population age 15 and over, using internet at least one a month <i>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using internet at least one a month (males)</i> <i>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using internet at least one a month (females)</i> <i>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using internet at least one a month (rural)</i> <i>Proportion of population age 15 and over, using internet at least one a month (urban)</i>	71% 77% 66% 67% 82% 33% 37% 29% 24% 57%
ENVIRONMENT 5: A nation committed to ensuring the conservation and sustainable management of our biodiversity and ecosystems		
ENV 5.3.1	Proportion of population with knowledge of the names of local flora and fauna Proportion of population age 15 and over that can name more than one species of local tree <i>Proportion of population age 15 and over that can name more than one species of local tree (males)</i> <i>Proportion of population age 15 and over that can name more than one species of local tree (females)</i> <i>Proportion of population age 15 and over that can name more than one species of local tree (rural)</i> <i>Proportion of population age 15 and over that can name more than one species of local tree (urban)</i>	81% 83% 80% 91% 56%

ECONOMY 2: Sustainable and well-maintained infrastructure and services for all, through inclusive and effective partnerships		
ECO 2.1.1	Proportion of households sourcing energy for lighting from renewable sources Proportion of households using renewable solar energy as main source of lighting <i>Proportion of households using renewable solar energy as main source of lighting (rural)</i> <i>Proportion of households using renewable solar energy as main source of lighting (urban)</i>	65% 83% 13%
ECO 2.1.2	Total number of mini-grid renewable energy systems in rural communities by province Total (weighted) number of households using solar home systems in Torba Total (weighted) number of households using solar home systems in Sanma Total (weighted) number of households using solar home systems in Penama Total (weighted) number of households using solar home systems in Malampa Total (weighted) number of households using solar home systems in Shefa Total (weighted) number of households using solar home systems in Tafea	1,294 6,241 3,573 6,077 5,037 2,594
ECO 2.2.1	Proportion of population with reliable access to safe drinking water Proportion of population, main drinking water from improved sources <i>Proportion of population, main drinking water from improved sources (males)</i> <i>Proportion of population, main drinking water from improved sources (females)</i> <i>Proportion of population, main drinking water from improved sources (rural)</i> <i>Proportion of population, main drinking water from improved sources (urban)</i>	88% 87% 88% 84% 97%
ECO 2.2.2	Proportion of population with reliable access to improved sanitation facilities Proportion of population using an improved toilet sanitation facility <i>Proportion of population using an improved toilet sanitation facility (males)</i> <i>Proportion of population using an improved toilet sanitation facility (females)</i> <i>Proportion of population using an improved toilet sanitation facility (rural)</i> <i>Proportion of population using an improved toilet sanitation facility (urban)</i>	79% 79% 79% 73% 96%
ECO 2.6.1	Proportion of population with access to transport by road, sea and air Proportion of the population within 30-minute walking distance to nearest road <i>Proportion of the population within 30-minute walking distance to nearest sea passage</i> <i>Proportion of the population within 30-minute walking distance to nearest air strip</i> Mean household perceived convenience of public transportation, 0–10 <i>Mean household perceived convenience of public transportation, 0–10 (rural)</i> <i>Mean household perceived convenience of public transportation, 0–10 (urban)</i>	86% 33% 10% 7.24 6.78 8.55
ECO 2.9.1	Proportion of population having access to broadband connection Proportion of population age 15 and over, using internet in last 30 days Proportion of households with members accessing internet from home modem or Wi-Fi at least once a month <i>Proportion of households with members accessing internet from home modem or Wi-Fi at least once a month (rural)</i> <i>Proportion of households with members accessing internet from home modem or Wi-Fi at least once a month (urban)</i>	33% 7% 6% 12%
ECONOMY 3: A strong rural economy that creates opportunities, enables the development of rural communities and increasingly contributes to national prosperity		
ECO 3.2.1	Average annual household income from tourism <i>Average annual household income from tourism related industries (ISIC sections H & I)</i> <i>Average annual rural household income from tourism related industries (ISIC sections H & I)</i> <i>Average annual urban household income from tourism related industries (ISIC sections H & I)</i>	VT 113,557 61,713 264,041

ECO 3.6.1	Average traveling distance to nearest school, health facility, and police post by province	
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest school	83%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest school TORBA	63%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest school SANMA Rural	73%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest school PENAMA	64%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest school MALAMPA	86%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest school SHEFA Rural	88%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest school TAFEA	83%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest school LUGANVILLE	98%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest school PORT VILA	92%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest health facility	70%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest health facility TORBA	58%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest health facility SANMA Rural	46%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest health facility PENAMA	61%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest health facility MALAMPA	71%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest health facility SHEFA Rural	68%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest health facility TAFEA	67%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest health facility LUGANVILLE	98%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest health facility PORT VILA	84%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest police post	32%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest police post TORBA	14%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest police post SANMA Rural	5%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest police post PENAMA	8%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest police post MALAMPA	12%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest police post SHEFA Rural	37%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest police post TAFEA	27%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest police post LUGANVILLE	97%
	Proportion of the population within 30 minutes traveling distance to nearest police post PORT VILA	63%
ECONOMY 4: An enabling business environment, creating opportunities and employment for entrepreneurs throughout Vanuatu		
ECO 4.2.1	Proportion of rural households engaged in trade with family in urban centers	
	Proportion of rural households that exchange goods with family in Port Vila or Luganville at least once a year	41%
ECO 4.6.1	Labor force participation by sector	
	Labor Force Participation Rate, % of working age population age 15+ in the labor force	50.2%
	Employment, age 15+, in agriculture, forestry or fisheries	37.3%
	Employment, age 15+, in industry including manufacturing, construction, mining and quarrying, electricity, gas and water supply	8.9%
	Employment, age 15+, in services including wholesale and retail trade, accommodations, food and beverage services, administrative support services, public administration and defense, education, and other services	49.4%

(p) = proxy measure

Summary Table of Key UN SDG Indicators

SDG Indicator ID	Indicator Name	Status
GOAL 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere		
1.1.1	Proportion of the population living below the international poverty line by sex, age, employment status and geographic location (urban/rural)	
	Proportion of population living below USD \$1.90 a day	8.5%
	Proportion of male population living below USD \$1.90 a day	8.4%
	Proportion of female population living below USD \$1.90 a day	8.7%
	Proportion of rural population living below USD \$1.90 a day	11.3%
	Proportion of urban population living below USD \$1.90 a day	0.6%
	Proportion of population under 15 living below USD \$1.90 a day	11.1%
	Proportion of population 16-30 living below USD \$1.90 a day	7.0%
	Proportion of population 31-64 living below USD \$1.90 a day	7.0%
	Proportion of population 65 and over living below USD \$1.90 a day	6.3%
	Proportion of population employed in labor force living below USD \$1.90 a day	3.8%
	Proportion of population unemployed in labor force living below USD \$1.90 a day	4.5%
1.2.1	Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex and age	
	Proportion of population living below national basic needs poverty line	15.9%
	Proportion of male population living below national basic needs poverty line	15.6%
	Proportion of female population living below national basic needs poverty line	16.2%
	Proportion of rural population living below national basic needs poverty line	20.8%
	Proportion of urban population living below national basic needs poverty line	2.0%
	Proportion of population under age 15 living below national basic needs poverty line	16.9%
	Proportion of population age 15-30 living below national basic needs poverty line	16.1%
	Proportion of population age 31-64 living below national basic needs poverty line	14.0%
	Proportion of population age 65+ living below national basic needs poverty line	18.0%
	Proportion of population employed in labor force living below national basic needs poverty line	9.0%
	Proportion of population unemployed in labor force living below national basic needs poverty line	13.1%
1.4.2	Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b) who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure	
	Proportion of population age 15 and higher with access to indigenous customary lands	85%
	Proportion of households headed by men with access to indigenous customary lands	88%
	Proportion of households headed by women with access to indigenous customary lands	78%
GOAL 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture		
2.1.1	Prevalence of undernourishment	
	Proportion of the population whose dietary energy intake is lower than the amount of energy it needs to be in good health and have an active life	8%
2.1.2	Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)	
	Proportion of population with limited access to food due to lack of money, lack of access to natural resources or other environmental factors	23.3%
2.3.2	Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status	VT
	Average monthly income value of home consumption ,Vatu	17,275
GOAL 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages		
3.a.1	Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older	
	Proportion of population age 15+ that currently smoke cigarettes / tobacco	20%
	Proportion of population age 15+ that smoke cigarettes / tobacco every day	7%

3.5.2 (p)	Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in liters of pure alcohol Proxy: Proportion of population age 15+ that consume alcohol at least once a week	6%
3.8.2	Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income Average annual household expenditure on health services, Vatu	VT 2,422
GOAL 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all		
4.3.1	Participation rate of youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training in the previous 12 months, by sex Proportion of population age 13–60 currently enrolled in formal or non-formal education and training programs Proportion of male population age 13–60 currently enrolled in formal or non-formal education and training programs Proportion of female population age 13–60 currently enrolled in formal or non-formal education and training programs	16% 17% 16%
4.6.1	Proportion of population in a given age group achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex Proportion of population age 12+ with self-assessed ability to read and write in either English or French Proportion of male population age 12+ with self-assessed ability to read and write in either English or French Proportion of female population age 12+ with self-assessed ability to read and write in either English or French	84% 85% 83%
GOAL 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls		
5.b.1	Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex Proportion of population age 15+ owning at least one mobile phone in working condition Proportion of male population age 15+ owning at least one mobile phone in working condition Proportion of female population age 15+ owning at least one mobile phone in working condition	57% 66% 48%
GOAL 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all		
8.5.2	Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities Unemployment rate, age 15+ Unemployment rate, males age 15+ Unemployment rate, females age 15+ Unemployment rate, age 15–24 Unemployment rate, age 25–64 Unemployment rate, age 65+ Unemployment rate, persons with disabilities, age 15+	7.9% 6.7% 9.4% 18.0% 6.1% 1.1% 8.1%
GOAL 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation		
9.2.2	Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment Manufacturing as a proportion of total employment	4.5%
GOAL 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries		
10.1.1	Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population and the total population Median annual per capita expenditure for bottom 40% of total population	VT 125,766

10.2.1	Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities Proportion of population living below 50 per cent of median consumption Proportion of male population living below 50 per cent of median consumption Proportion of female population living below 50 per cent of median consumption Proportion of rural population living below 50 per cent of median consumption Proportion of urban population living below 50 per cent of median consumption Proportion of population under 15 living below 50 per cent of median consumption Proportion of population 15-30 living below 50 per cent of median consumption Proportion of population 30-64 living below 50 per cent of median consumption Proportion of population 65 and over living below 50 per cent of median consumption Proportion of population with disability living below 50 per cent of median consumption Proportion of population without disability living below 50 per cent of median consumption	20.6% 20.7% 20.6% 27.7% 0.8% 25.2% 18.4% 16.9% 20.1% 19.3% 20.3%
GOAL 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable		
11.2.1	Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities Mean level of convenience of public transportation, 0–10 scale, household level	7.24
GOAL 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all level		
16.b.1	Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law Proportion of population age 15+ that have experienced discrimination based on race, nationality, ethnicity or place of origin, color, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status or disability in previous 12 months	16%
16.1.4	Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live Proportion of population age 15+ that feel safe from violent attack when walking alone after dark in their community or area	60%
16.5.1	Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by those public officials, during the previous 12 months Proportion of population age 15+ that paid, or was asked to pay, a bribe to a public official in the last 12 months	16%
16.6.2	Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services Mean level of satisfaction with last experience of public services, age 15+, 0–10 scale	7.27
16.7.2	Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group Mean level of agreement with the statement, "I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area / community" among population age 15+, 0–10 scale Mean level of agreement with the statement, "I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area / community" among male population age 15+, 0–10 scale Mean level of agreement with the statement, "I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area / community" among female population age 15+, 0–10 scale Mean level of agreement with the statement, "I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area / community" among population age 15–30, 0–10 scale Mean level of agreement with the statement, "I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area / community" among population age 31–64, 0–10 scale Mean level of agreement with the statement, "I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area / community" among population age 65+, 0–10 scale	5.96 6.22 5.70 5.75 6.15 5.86
GOAL 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development		
17.8.1	Proportion of individuals using the Internet Proportion of population age 15+ using internet at least once a month	33%

Weighted Population and Household Reference Tables

The following tables provide weighted population and household figures by disaggregation specifications and they are intended as a reference for deciphering proportional values.

Table 1 Reference table, weighted population by age specifications

	WEIGHTED POPULATION	WEIGHTED POPULATION, YOUTH AGE 13-30	WEIGHTED POPULATION, AGE 3 AND HIGHER	WEIGHTED POPULATION, AGE 5 AND HIGHER	WEIGHTED POPULATION, AGE 12 AND HIGHER	WEIGHTED POPULATION, AGE 15 AND HIGHER	WEIGHTED POPULATION, AGE 15 AND HIGHER AVAILABLE	WEIGHTED POPULATION, AGE 18 AND HIGHER	WEIGHTED POPULATION, AGE 18 AND HIGHER AVAILABLE	WEIGHTED POPULATION, AGE 25 AND HIGHER
Vanuatu National	295,495	96,263	273,706	258,017	204,298	183,460	128,525	167,152	120,999	129,798
Rural	217,750	69,756	10,153	9,520	7,387	6,576	6,081	5,867	5,501	4,474
Torba Province	11,024	3,511	10,153	9,520	7,387	6,576	6,081	5,867	5,501	4,474
Sanma Province Rural	43,217	14,610	39,682	37,221	28,954	26,056	16,430	23,564	15,668	17,600
Penama Province (excl. Ambae)	34,557	11,160	32,005	30,088	23,214	20,312	16,084	18,438	15,263	14,031
Malampa Province	42,884	12,769	40,129	37,706	29,414	25,914	22,444	23,348	20,802	18,383
Shefa Province Rural	47,754	15,774	44,814	42,415	34,712	31,590	18,615	29,147	17,734	23,702
Tafea Province	38,315	11,932	35,223	32,982	24,156	21,092	10,552	18,536	10,124	13,832
Urban	77,745	26,507	71,699	68,085	56,461	51,920	38,318	48,252	35,907	37,776
Luganville	16,359	5,609	15,267	14,422	11,764	10,549	5,503	9,704	5,290	7,550
Port Vila	61,385	20,897	56,432	53,663	44,697	41,371	32,815	38,548	30,618	30,226
Sex										
Male	150,681	47,128	139,272	130,910	103,023	92,311	64,234	83,963	60,518	66,029
Female	144,814	49,135	134,433	127,107	101,276	91,149	64,291	83,189	60,481	63,769
Age										
Under 15	112,035	12,577	77,669	74,557	8,262	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
15-30	83,686	83,686	96,263	83,686	96,263	83,686	50,959	67,378	43,433	30,024
31-64	84,195	NA	87,274	84,195	87,274	84,195	64,777	84,195	64,777	87,274
65 and Over	15,578	NA	12,500	15,578	12,500	15,578	12,789	15,578	12,789	12,500
Marital Status (all age 15 and up)										
Never married	53,434	61,532	53,434	53,434	53,434	53,434	28,440	37,391	21,072	12,159
Married	98,211	20,406	98,211	98,211	98,211	98,211	77,082	98,026	76,964	91,304
De Facto	23,228	13,841	23,228	23,228	23,228	23,228	15,612	23,166	15,582	17,896
Divorced/ Separated	2,046	316	2,046	2,046	2,046	2,046	1,674	2,046	1,674	1,974
Widowed	6,541	170	6,541	6,541	6,541	6,541	5,717	6,524	5,706	6,466
Education Level Completed (all age 15 and up)										
None or completed kindy, Pre-school	14,371	3,775	14,371	14,371	14,371	14,371	10,222	13,683	9,849	12,197
Primary through Class 6	64,939	25,818	64,939	64,939	64,939	64,939	50,630	61,526	48,698	53,691
Primary through Class 8	24,325	18,880	24,325	24,325	24,325	24,325	16,121	19,351	13,890	13,891
Jr Secondary	38,724	24,120	38,724	38,724	38,724	38,724	25,220	33,480	23,069	22,906
Sr Secondary	27,299	17,079	27,299	27,299	27,299	27,299	17,250	25,518	16,510	16,707
Post Secondary, tertiary, Vocational or University	13,801	6,592	13,801	13,801	13,801	13,801	9,082	13,594	8,983	10,406

Table 2: Reference table, weighted number of households and average household size

	WEIGHTED NUMBER IF HOUSEHOLDS	AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE
National Total	62,810	4.8
Rural Total	46,717	4.7
Torba Province	2,557	4.3
Sanma Province Rural	9,389	4.6
Penama Province (excl. Ambae)	7,331	4.7
Malampa Province	9,567	4.5
Shefa Province Rural	10,235	4.7
Tafea Province	7,638	5.0
Urban Total	16,094	4.7
Luganville	3,532	4.6
Port Vila	12,562	4.9
Sex of main respondent		
Male	39,557	4.7
Female	23,253	4.6
Age of main respondent		
30 and under	14,098	3.9
31-64	42,036	5.1
65 and over	6,676	3.7
Education level of main respondent		
None, pre-school & primary	39,939	4.7
Junior secondary or higher	22,871	4.7
Quintile of per capita total expenditure		
Lowest Quintile 0% - 20%	12,575	5.7
20% - 40%	12,558	5.0
40% - 60%	12,562	4.8
60% - 80%	12,563	4.4
Highest Quintile 80% - 100%	12,553	3.5

1 PROFILE OF HAPPINESS

Introduction

Happiness can be understood in abstract as an individual pursuit that is constant and bound by a subjective notion of what it means to be happy. Government can do little to influence a single individual's happiness directly, but it can be instrumental in creating an environment conducive to the pursuit itself. Economic growth, by contrast, is a collective pursuit that is boundless and considered a high priority of governments, partly due to its presumed effect of contributing towards people's happiness.

Happiness can be difficult to measure and interpret—individuals have a different conception of what it means to be happy, and what conditions are required for living their best lives. Subjective well-being (SWB) is an increasingly standard measure of happiness around the world, and refers to how individuals understand the quality of their lives. It provides policy-makers with valuable insights on the determinants of well-being and, over time, will indicate impacts of national policies and programs aimed at improving living conditions for ni-Vanuatu. Experienced Well-being (ExWB) data helps illustrate social emotional variability over time⁸.

The concept of happiness as a direct measure of quality of life captures the notion that what matters, or should matter, for decision-makers are the impacts of a specific set of circumstances on how people feel about their lives and living conditions. Acknowledging that people are best placed to describe how life is treating them, the concepts of SWB and ExWB provide valuable insights into contemporary living conditions in Vanuatu, and its analysis may provide powerful and useful complementary information to more traditional and abstract measures such as poverty or general human development indices.

Official statistics on subjective well-being in Vanuatu began with a 2010 pilot study looking at "Alternative Indicators of Well-being for Melanesia". The pilot report, published in 2012, provided the first evidence on happiness in Vanuatu and its relationship to indigenous controlled natural resources, traditional knowledge and practice, and community vitality. A subsequent methodological trial of a 12-month modular expanded Household Income and Expenditure Survey entitled, "Pacific Living Conditions Survey", or "Hybrid Survey" for short, ran from 2012 and collected subjective well-being data in Vanuatu once again. A factsheet from the survey, published in 2015, further explored the trends on happiness and stress in Vanuatu.

Subjective well-being data collected in 2010 and again in 2012 later enabled Vanuatu to be re-listed in the Happy Planet Index by the New Economics Foundation. The Index, developed as a measure of sustainable well-being in contrast to the endless pursuit of economic growth, ranks countries in their ability to create conditions for long, happy and sustainable lives of their citizens. Vanuatu ranked #4 out of 140 countries around the world and #1 in the Asia / Pacific Region with the greatest conditions for happiness the last time the index was published⁹.

Information on happiness is reported more and more by countries around the world using tested and standardized subjective well-being metrics. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) first published guidelines for the collection of subjective well-being data in 2013 upon which they continue to build as they learn through research what questions yield the most valuable indicators for policy makers.

New Zealand provides an example of bold action towards a well-being economy with the establishment of their national Well-being Budget in 2019. The New Zealand government now uses the budget process to ensure investments are made to address societal well-being in order to gauge longer-term impacts of policy on the quality of people's lives. Large investments in programs aimed at improving mental health, eliminating family and sexual violence, and updating health infrastructure, for example, establish targets that are tracked using the Treasury's "Living Standards Framework". The framework expands the focus of the budget beyond economic and fiscal policy and uses a broader set of indicators to show a more rounded measure of success as a country and as a government¹⁰.

Subjective Well-being (SWB)

Previous collections of subjective well-being data in Vanuatu used the Cantril Ladder self-anchoring scale still used today by the Gallup Institute. The NSDP Baseline Survey has adopted the OECD standard core series that establishes overall life satisfaction, or Satisfaction with Life (SWL), as the primary measure of SWB. The decision to change question form was primarily to make efforts towards aligning methods with OECD Statistics and Data Directorate recommendations. The SWL measure requires less time to ask and is therefore more cost efficient and less burdensome on the respondent than the Cantril Ladder measure. Furthermore, a recent study found SWL to be easier to comprehend than Cantril Ladder among respondents in Solomon Islands that were asked both questions¹¹.

The Vanuatu National Statistics Office will continue to report subjective well-being as a key indicator for the National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP). Subjective well-being for purposes of this analysis is measured using an 11-point scale from "not at all satisfied" (0) to "completely satisfied" (10) based on how an individual feels about his or her life as a whole. The average, or mean, is useful for making comparisons from region to region, among social groupings, and over time. The national mean informs Society Pillar Policy Objective 4.2.



8 OECD (2013), *OECD Guidelines on Measuring Subjective Well-being*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264191655-en>
9 New Economics Foundation (2016), *The Happy Planet Index 2016: A global index of sustainable wellbeing*, NEF Publishing, London

10 The Treasury New Zealand (2019), *The Wellbeing Budget*, ISBN: 978-1-98-858041-8 (print), 978-1-98-858042-5 (online)
11 Minarro S, Reyes-Garcia V, Aswani S, Selim S, Brrington-Leigh CP, Galbraith ED (2021), *Happy without money: Minimally monetized societies can exhibit high subjective well-being*, PLoS ONE 16(1): e0244569

Figure 1 Mean Subjective Well-being, 0-10, population age 15+ by area and group

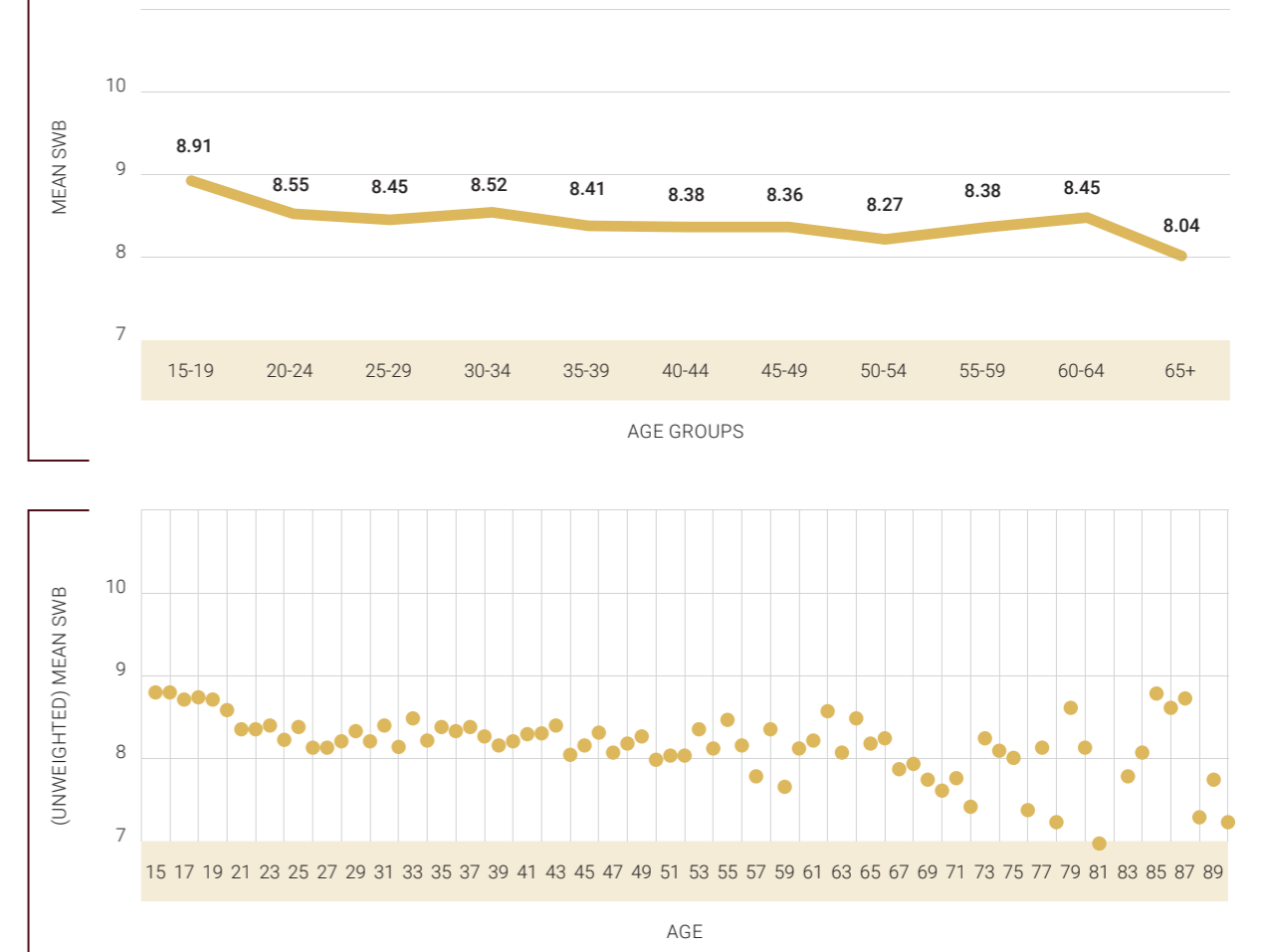
	VALUE	BELOW MEAN	ABOVE MEAN	DIFFERENCE
NATIONAL MEAN	8.45			
URBAN MEAN	8.67			0.22
Port Vila	9.02			0.56
Luganville	6.63			-1.83
RURAL MEAN	8.36			-0.09
Torba	8.25			-0.02
Sanma Rural	7.44			-1.01
Penama	8.72			0.26
Malampa	8.77			0.31
Shefa Rural	8.62			0.17
Tafea	8.00			-0.46
SEX				
Male	8.50			0.05
Female	8.41			-0.04
AGE				
15-30	8.61			0.15
31-64	8.40			-0.05
65 & over	8.04			-0.41
MARITAL STATUS				
Never married	8.78			0.33
Married	8.40			-0.05
De facto	8.36			-0.09
Divorced/separated	8.29			-0.16
Widowed	7.95			-0.50
EDUCATION LEVEL COMPLETED				
None or completed kindy	7.89			-0.56
Primary through Class 6	8.31			-0.14
Primary through Class 8	8.53			0.08
Jr Secondary	8.63			0.18
Sr Secondary	8.64			0.19
Post Secondary, University	8.91			0.46

The national mean SWB score is 8.45. Mean SWB is lowest in Luganville and rural Sanma Province, both under 8—SWB was lowest in Sanma Province in 2010 and 2012 collections as well. People living in Port Vila, rural Shefa, Penama, and Malampa Provinces reported SWB scores above the national mean.

Men and boys ages 15 and over are happier on average than women and girls, although the difference between the means is not significant. The difference between the mean SWB of men and women is 0.09—this is slightly larger than the difference revealed in the 2010 pilot study of 0.04. On average, youth are happier than people over the age of 30 are.

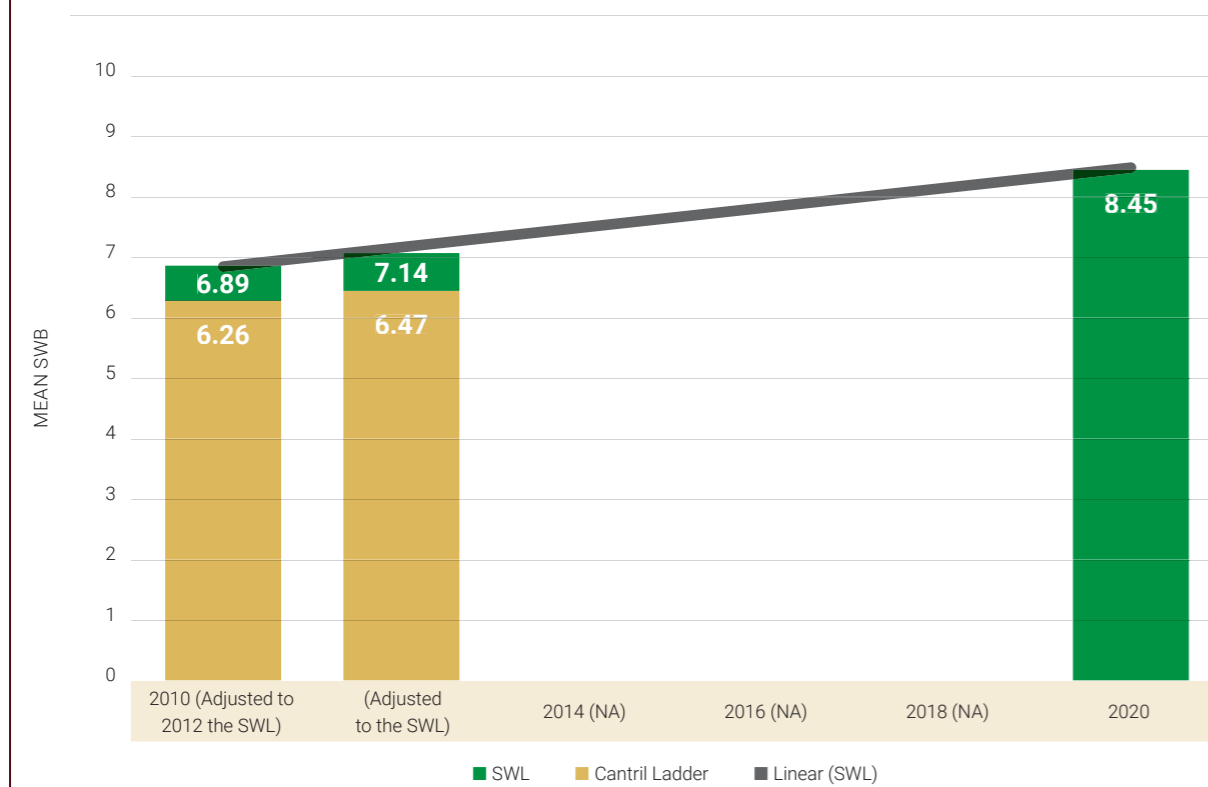
People that have attained a post-secondary level of formal education are, on average, happier than those that reach lower levels of attainment. The difference in mean SWB between those that have never attended school or only completed Pre-School or Kindergarten levels, and those that have attained Post-Secondary, Tertiary, Vocational or University, is more than a full point on the 0-10 scale.

Figure 2 Age effect on SWB – weighted mean SWB by age group and scatter plot unweighted mean SWB by age



There is a gradual decline in mean SWB across age groups from age 15 through about age 50. There is an upturn in mean SWB after the age of 50, however, after the age of 65 the SWB response becomes less stable as a predictor. This may mean we need to improve how questions of SWB are asked to older individuals, or that the well-being of the elderly is less certain.

Figure 3 National mean SWB comparisons over time (SWL adjusted)



Comparing SWB over time in Vanuatu requires an adjustment of the previous mean scores. The Cantril Ladder data, collected in 2010 and again in 2012, has been found to produce slightly lower scores than the SWL. However, both Cantril Ladder and SWL measures display very high correlation when asked to the same people and both measures produce essentially identical country rankings and very similar correlates, including the effect of income¹². The close relationship between the SWL and Cantril Ladder scores allows a linear transformation of the ladder averages using the adjustment equation below¹³:

$$\hat{swl}_k = -0.37 + 1.16 \times \overline{ladder}_k.$$

The national mean SWB of 8.45 is significantly higher than previously collected in 2010 and 2012, but this can be interpreted as a progressive upward trend over the last decade. The OECD's "How's Life? 2020" report listed four other countries with mean SWB scores over 8.0, including Canada, Ireland, Finland and Colombia¹⁴. People in Vanuatu are, on average, significantly happier today than they were a decade ago. This may be the result of national policies in place that improve access to and the quality of essential services or other non-governmental factors that have led to improvements in life quality in general. For example, Vanuatu's growing young population may tend to have a more optimistic outlook that has driven the average higher.

12 OECD (2013), *OECD Guidelines on Measuring Subjective Well-being*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264191655-en>
 13 Helliwell, John & Shiplett, Hugh & Bonikowska, Aneta. (2020). Migration as a test of the happiness set-point hypothesis: Evidence from immigration to Canada and the United Kingdom. *Canadian Journal of Economics/Revue Canadienne d'Economie*. 53. 10.1111/caje.12474.
 14 OECD (2020), *How's Life? 2020: Measuring Well-being*, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9870c393-en>

Figure 4 Difference in mean SWB by area, 2010 to 2020 (SWL adjusted)

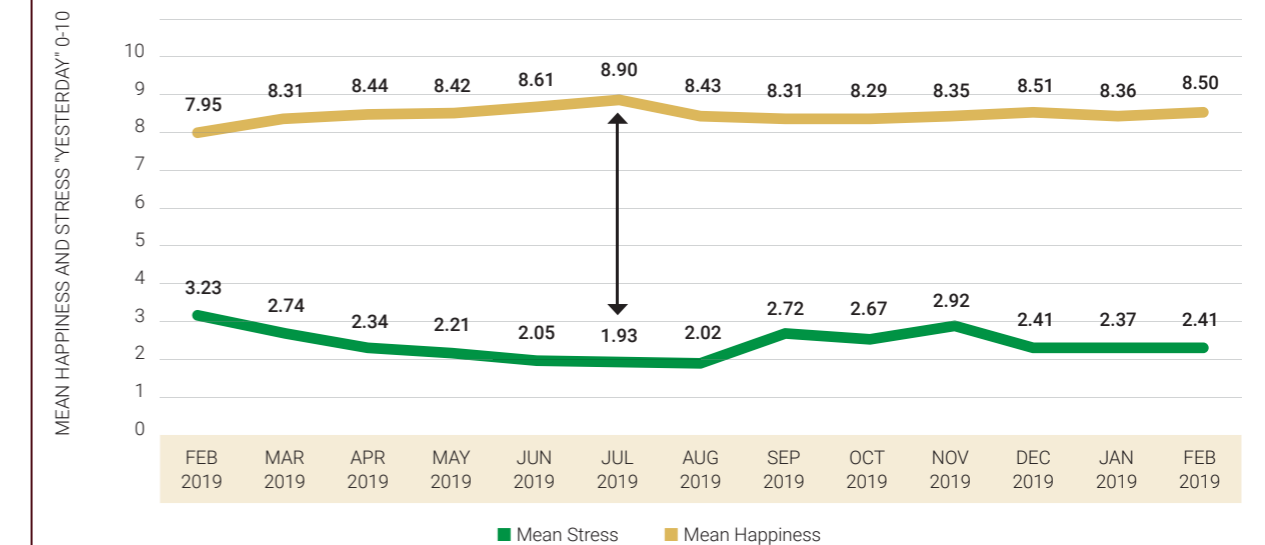
	LOWER SWB	HIGHER SWB	SCORE DIFFERENCE (2020-ADJUSTED 2010)
National Mean			1.56
Urban Mean			2.13
Rural Mean			1.36
Torba			0.42
Sanma Rural			0.99
Penama			1.42
Malampa			2.03
Shefa Rural			1.38
Tafea			1.20

An adjustment of mean SWB scores from the 2010 pilot study allows a comparison to NSDP Baseline Survey data by area. The difference in mean SWB scores shows an increase in SWB in all areas over the period of comparison. Some areas, such as Malampa Province, have seen larger increases in mean SWB than others. Torba Province had the highest mean SWB of any province in the 2010 pilot study; however, it saw the smallest increase in SWB over the ten-year period. The rural mean SWB was slightly higher than the urban mean SWB in 2010. While there have been increases in the mean SWB in both urban and rural areas in Vanuatu over the ten-year period since the pilot study, the urban mean SWB increased more than in rural areas.

Experienced Well-being (ExWB)

Events such as natural disasters, important traditional ceremonies, or times of national celebration can bring on temperate positive and negative feelings not captured in subjective well-being, which looks at life satisfaction as a whole. Experienced, or hedonic, well-being captures an individual's emotional state at a particular time. Unlike subjective well-being that is more evaluative over a long reference period, experienced well-being is tied to a specific reference period, and 'yesterday' is used in this data. ExWB is sometimes referred to as emotional well-being and can be a valuable tool for investigating affect at a particular point in time.

Figure 5 National mean, 0-10, "How happy/worried did you feel yesterday?"



The NSDP Baseline Survey asked respondents ages 15 and over how happy and how worried they felt on the previous day using an 11-point scale from 0 to 10. Tracking responses over the 12-month data collection period points to July as the month where people are generally happier and less stressed or worried. July is the month when Vanuatu celebrates National Children's Day and Independence Day.

Figure 6 Difference from national mean stress level by area and group

	VALUE	BELOW MEAN	ABOVE MEAN	DIFFERENCE
NATIONAL MEAN	2.47			
URBAN MEAN	2.00			-0.47
Port Vila	1.95			-0.52
Luganville	2.27			-0.20
RURAL MEAN	2.66			0.19
Torba	3.75			1.28
Sanma Rural	2.57			0.10
Penama	2.06			-0.41
Malampa	2.46			-0.01
Shefa Rural	2.97			0.50
Tafea	3.02			0.55
SEX				
Male	2.39			-0.08
Female	2.54			0.07
AGE				
15-30	2.27			-0.20
31-64	2.57			0.10
65 & over	2.68			0.21
MARITAL STATUS				
Never married	2.07			-0.40
Married	2.57			0.10
De facto	2.43			-0.04
Divorced/separated	3.63			1.16
Widowed	2.76			0.29
EDUCATION LEVEL COMPLETED				
None or completed kindy	2.92			0.45
Primary through Class 6	2.48			0.01
Primary through Class 8	2.37			-0.10
Jr Secondary	2.46			-0.01
Sr Secondary	2.49			0.02
Post Secondary, University	2.01			-0.46

"Stress pockets" are visible regionally where the average level of experienced stress is above the national average of 2.47. The clearest example of this would be the population of Torba Province averaging 3.75 out of 10. This is worth noting because the same province had the largest proportion of people reporting no stress in 2010. Comparison of stress levels by population groups shows that people that are divorced or separated have higher average stress levels than those that are married, have never been married, are in de-facto relationships, and widows. This is true for both sexes.

Thriving, Struggling & Suffering

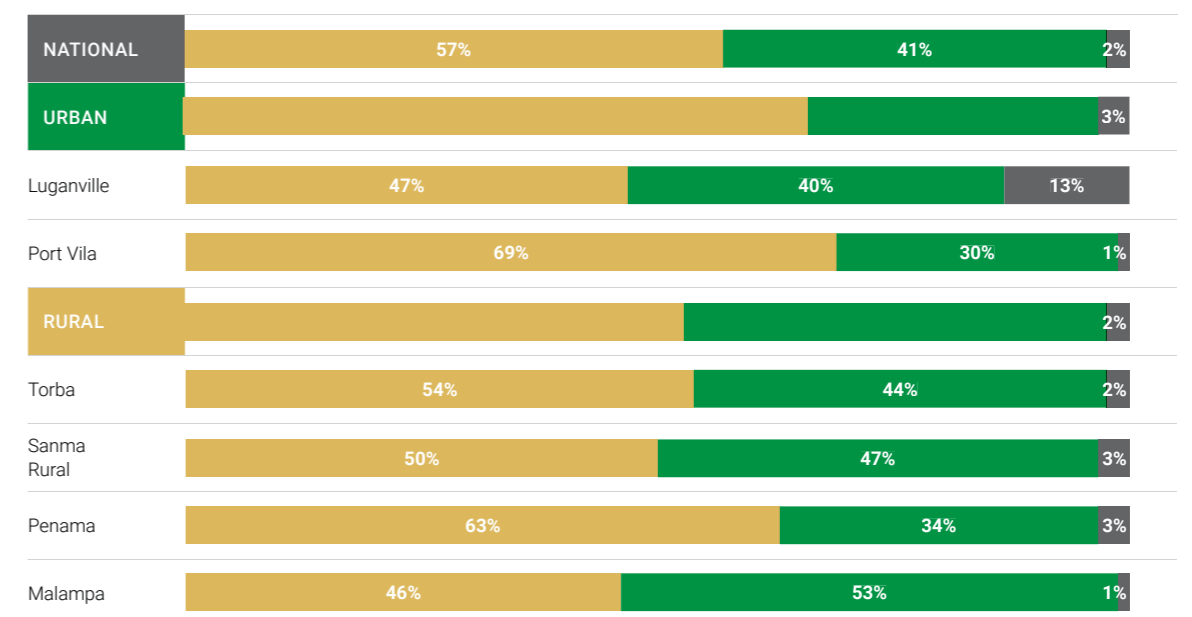
Mean comparisons are useful for identifying population differences, although changes in ordinal data can be difficult to interpret. For example, the difference between a mean of 6.54 and a mean of 6.78, beyond the fact that one is greater or lesser the other, is more difficult to comprehend than a change in temperature, rainfall, or length. The Gallup Institute developed meaningful groupings of the population based on responses to subjective well-being scale questions that are more intuitive and easier to convey¹⁵.

Thriving -- well-being that is strong, consistent, and progressing. These respondents have positive views of their present life situation (7+) and have positive views of the next five years (8+). They report significantly fewer health problems, fewer sick days, less worry, stress, sadness, anger, and more happiness, enjoyment, interest, and respect.

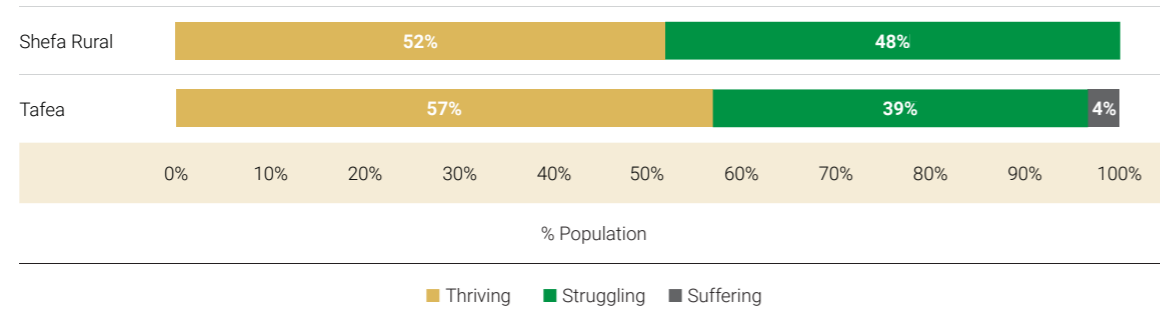
Struggling -- well-being that is moderate or inconsistent. These respondents have moderate views of their present life situation OR moderate OR negative views of their future. They are either struggling in the present, or expect to struggle in the future. They report more daily stress and worry about money than the «thriving» respondents, and more than double the amount of sick days. They are more likely to smoke, and are less likely to eat healthy.

Suffering -- well-being that is at high risk. These respondents have poor ratings of their current life situation (4 and below) AND negative views of the next five years (4 and below). They are more likely to report lacking the basics of food and shelter, more likely to have physical pain, a lot of stress, worry, sadness, and anger. They have less access to health insurance and care, and more than double the disease burden, in comparison to "thriving" respondents.

Figure 7 Thriving, Struggling, and Suffering by area, population age 15+

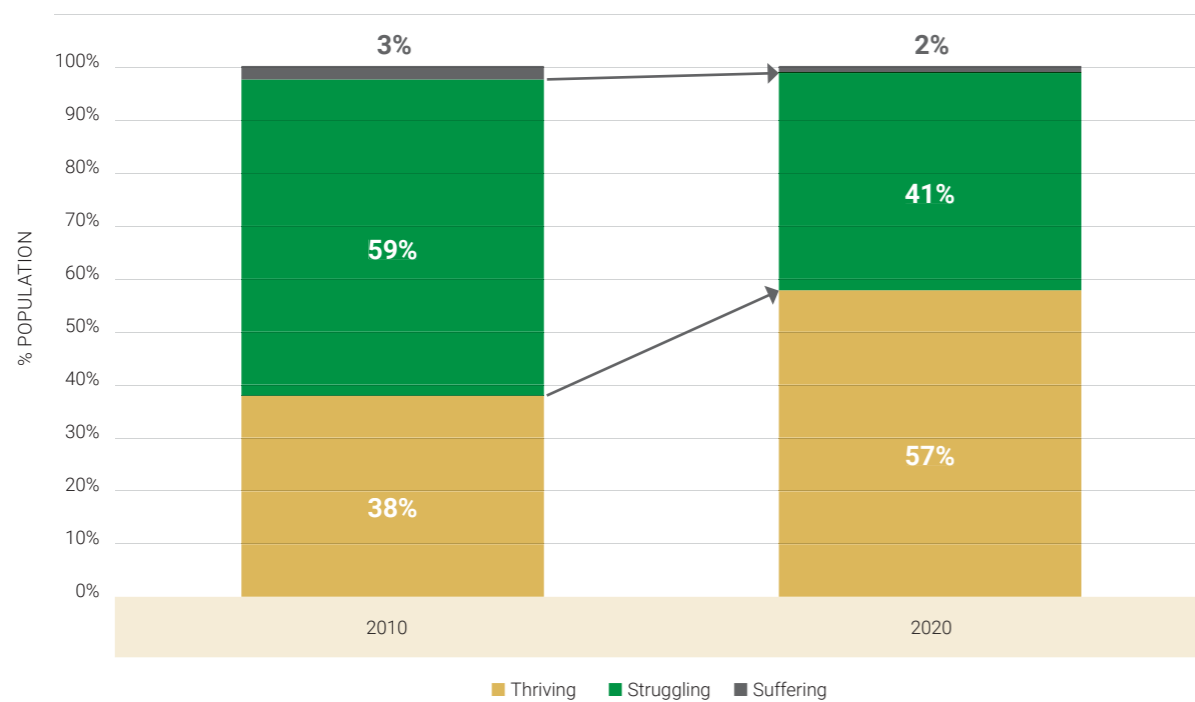


¹⁵ Gallup (2009). *World Poll Methodology*. Technical Report. Washington, DC.



The Gallup method applied in Vanuatu shows more than half, 57%, of the population age 15 and over—an estimated 104,139 individuals—is considered to be thriving. Just 2% (3,867 individuals), are considered to be suffering in Vanuatu. An estimated 13% of the population of Luganville is considered suffering using the subjective scales. Perceptions of quality of life are lowest in Luganville, followed by Malampa Province—the only rural Province where less than half of the population is thriving.

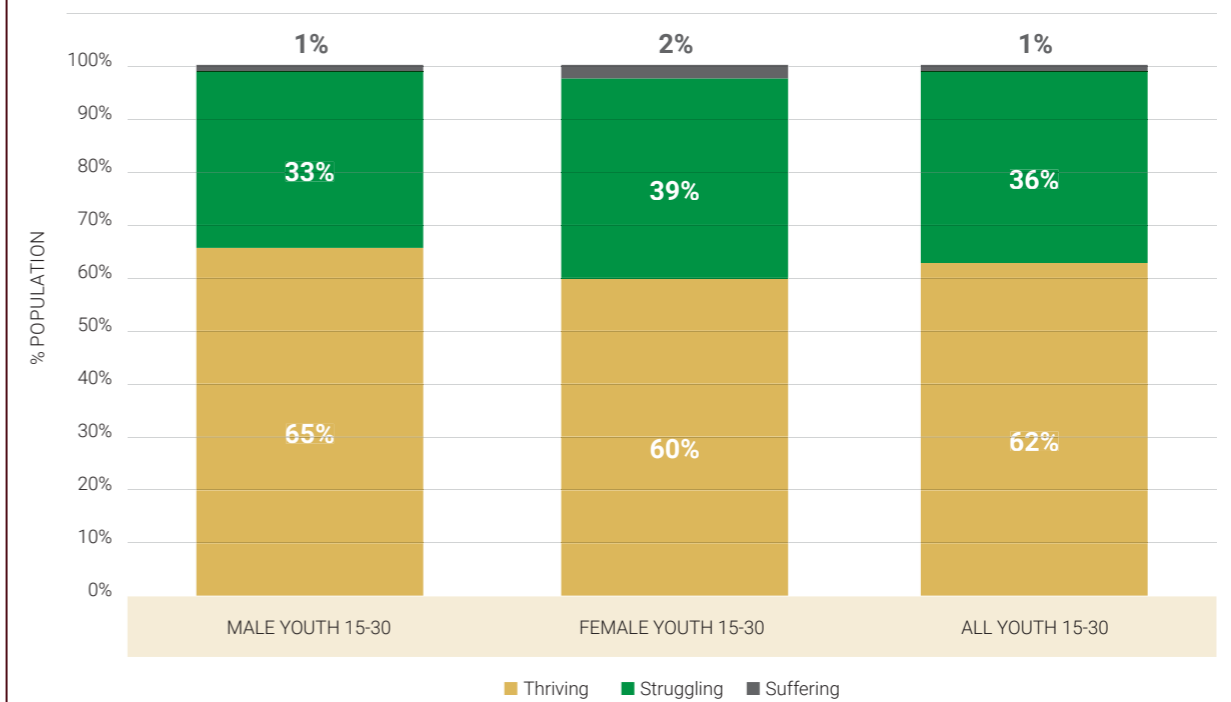
Figure 8 Thriving, Struggling, and Suffering change from 2010 to 2020



There is evidence of increases in the proportion of population that is thriving across all regions in Vanuatu since the pilot study on well-being—19% more of the population is thriving in 2020 than in 2010—while we can also see maintenance and even decline in the proportion of the population that is suffering within the same period. Development over the last decade has moved a significant proportion of the population from struggling to thriving.

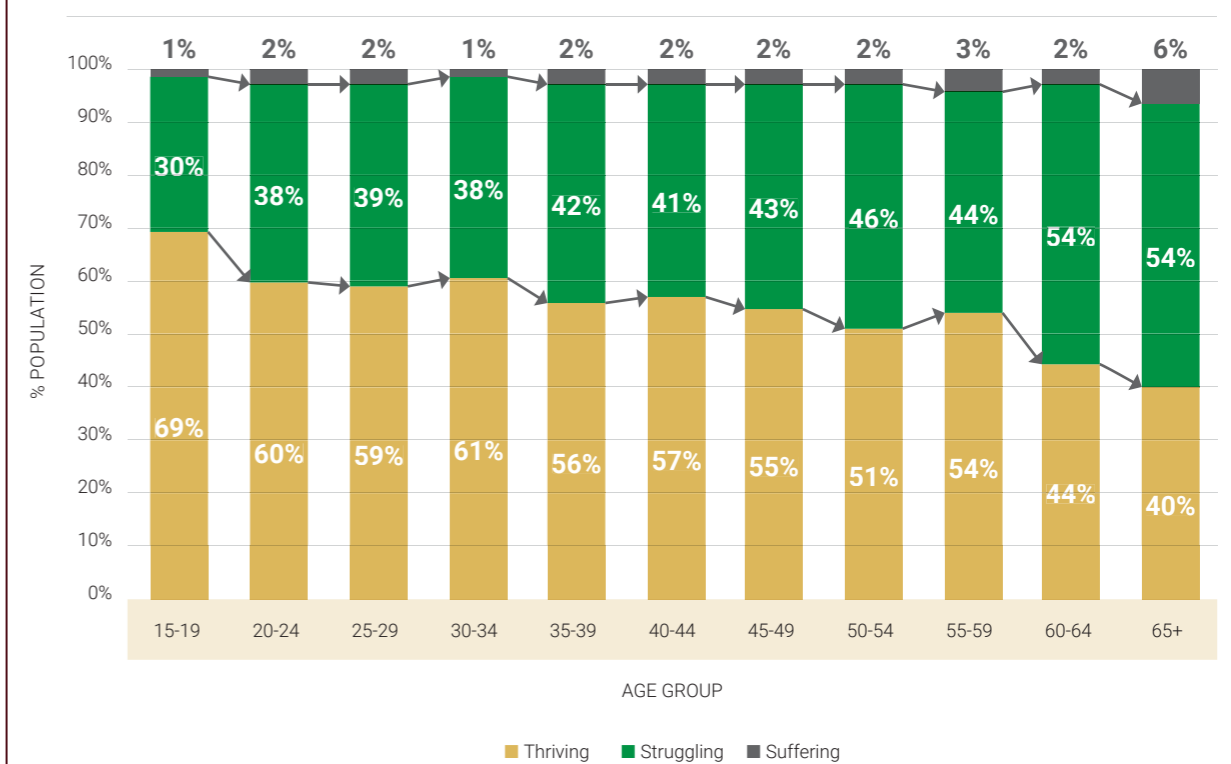
The proportion of youth that are thriving using this method are taken as a proxy indicator for the proportion of youth that feel valued in society. The Society Pillar Policy Objective 4.6 is to, “Provide opportunities, support and protection services for youth and children as valued members of society.” The Ministry of Youth & Sport has defined the age boundary for youth to be individuals from 13 to 30 years old.

Figure 9 Thriving, Struggling, and Suffering among youth age 15-30 by sex



Greater than the national average, 62% of youth ages 15-30 are considered to be thriving in Vanuatu society. This age group has a greater proportion of people thriving, and a lower proportion of people suffering, than any other age group. While a majority, 60% of female youth, are considered thriving, a greater majority, 65% of male youth, are considered thriving in Vanuatu.

Figure 10 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering by Age Group



As average SWB drops with age, so does the proportion of the population considered to be thriving in society. There appears to be an increase in the proportion of thriving from age 50 to 60 suggesting a rebound, however, the proportion drops once again after the age of 60.

Well-being and Happiness

We can see from data collected in the NSDP Baseline Survey an increase in average subjective well-being, or happiness, across all regions and segments of society since the 2010 pilot study. Experienced well-being data points to July 2019 as the happiest time of the year, with the least amount of associated stress. We can see an increase in the proportion of the population that is “thriving” in Vanuatu since 2010, although that change has not been consistent in all regions or among all segments of society. This happiness profile provides evidence of improvements to quality of life in Port Vila, as well as diminished quality of life in rural areas of Vanuatu and Luganville and diminished quality of life for the elderly.

What contributes to a thriving individual in Vanuatu today, and how are the conditions for living a good life different in urban and rural settings? Subsequent chapters in this report will help us build profiles for thriving urban and rural ni-Vanuatu in 2020, and provide evidence for policies that can be developed to enhance well-being outcomes in Vanuatu.

2 PROFILE OF ACCESS

Introduction

Economists study how individuals and communities manage their resources. The fundamental problem that economists study is that of resource scarcity and the underlying inequality of access. Vanuatu has a dominant traditional economy that is social in nature and relies on natural resources, traditional knowledge and practice, and strong communities and social networks. This section begins to build a national profile of ni-Vanuatu access to natural resources—the foundation of the traditional economy.

Customary lands, forests, and marine resources are complex traditional economic assets for indigenous ni-Vanuatu. Land provides sustenance for current and future generations. Land is connected to spiritual beliefs, traditional knowledge and teachings, and is fundamental to cultural reproduction. Moreover, commonly held land rights reinforce national identity. Access to indigenous land, forest and marine resources is therefore understandably a critical determining factor to one’s well-being in Vanuatu. Indigenous ni-Vanuatu are likely to have customary access to land, forest and marine resources through birthright, marriage, or other customary arrangement. This access provides opportunities for food production, housing, income generation and much more.

Most economists pay particular attention to how individuals, households and communities manage their monetary resources. Increased income is positively related to well-being in Vanuatu up to a point, as illustrated in Chapter 1—increases in monetary wealth tend to yield higher average levels of subjective well-being—although that relationship is not as distinct in populations that do not depend as much on money for basic needs. Vanuatu has swaths of the population in greater need of money to support their food and nutritional needs, their shelter needs, transportation, communication and more. The majority of the population, however, still does not depend fully on money to feed or house their family, as illustrated in the previous chapter. Those with access to indigenous customary lands and that use lands for food, housing, and other uses have significantly reduced their dependence on the cash economy for basic needs and are less monetized as a result.

People living in urban centers depend on money in order to purchase food, shelter, and items of traditional exchange value, among other basic needs. People living in rural areas depend on money as well, although not as much as individuals in towns, to meet basic needs. The whole of Vanuatu is monetized to an extent, and employment opportunities provide a means for accessing earned income. Access to earned income and the security of monetary assets is important for the well-being of both urban and rural individuals, as is the equality of distribution of wealth in society. This chapter summarizes the analysis on employment, income and financial services, and inequality covered in detail in the Household Income & Expenditure Report, the Hardship Assessment Report, and the Labor Market Monograph with emphasis on well-being impacts.

Access is also a valuable variable for government policy when assessing service delivery. People are less likely to bring crops to market if market access is too difficult or uncertain. People are less likely to achieve high levels of educational attainment or to seek urgent health care if the public schools and health facilities are too far away or too difficult to reach. This chapter will also summarize analysis on access to services and infrastructure, including housing, water and sanitation, energy, communication, transportation, and distance to essential services with emphasis on well-being impacts.



Free Access to Indigenous Lands

How land is thought about and used by indigenous ni-Vanuatu goes beyond that of Western conceptions of land as an economic asset. The beliefs and worldviews of indigenous ni-Vanuatu are deeply rooted on their connection with ancestral land and often with related subsistence activities of farming, hunting, fishing and gathering. Access to land can also orient social relations including rules for leadership, marriage, inheritance and group belonging. Indigenous stewardship of land in Vanuatu contributes to environmental preservation and biodiversity. Access to indigenous land puts people in stronger negotiation position to leverage and protect their interests. These different aspects are not exclusive, but are complementary to one another. Land access rights are therefore crucial to the maintenance of the collective identity of tribal groups in Vanuatu.

Free access to indigenous lands is a keystone of well-being in Vanuatu, a country that fought for and achieved political independence from the British and French in 1980 predominantly to return indigenous lands back to customary owners¹⁶.

CHAPTER 12 LAND
LAND BELONGS TO CUSTOM OWNERS
 73. All land in the Republic of Vanuatu belongs to the indigenous custom owners and their descendants.

BASIS OF OWNERSHIP AND USE
 74. The rules of custom shall form the basis of ownership and use of land in the Republic of Vanuatu.

PERPETUAL OWNERSHIP
 75. Only indigenous citizens of the Republic of Vanuatu who have acquired their land in accordance with a recognized system of land tenure shall have perpetual ownership of their land.

Access to indigenous lands is a key Vanuatu NSDP indicator, reporting progress against Society Pillar Policy Objective 1.7, “Safeguard the traditional economy as a valued means of contributing to the wellbeing of the population and complementing the formal economy.” It is also an indicator for U.N. SDG 1.4 which states, “by 2030 ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership, and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services including microfinance.”

In the 2019-2020 NSDP Baseline Survey, households in Vanuatu were asked if members had access to customary lands they could use freely, without having to pay for usage rights with money.



¹⁶ “Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu,” Chapter 12, Sec. 73,74,75

Figure 11 % Population with free access to indigenous customary lands by area and group

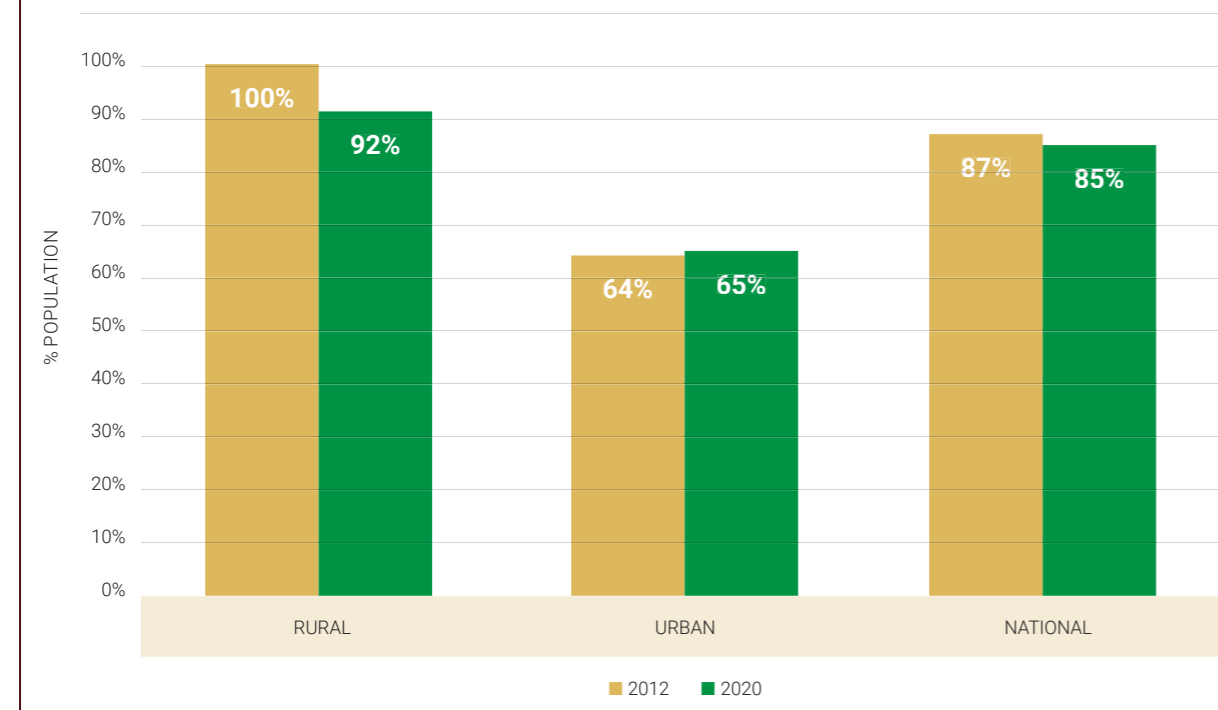
	POPULATION	BELOW AVG	ABOVE AVG	DIFFERENCE
NATIONAL AVG	85%			
URBAN AVG	65%			
Port Vila	67%			-18%
Luganville	57%			-28%
RURAL AVG	92%			
Torba	98%			13%
Sanma Rural	88%			3%
Penama	97%			12%
Malampa	93%			8%
Shefa Rural	87%			1%
Tafea	98%			13%
SEX				
Male	85%			0%
Female	85%			0%
MARITAL STATUS				
Never married	84%			-1%
Married	87%			2%
De facto	72%			-13%
Divorced/separated	76%			-9%
Widowed	87%			2%
EDUCATION LEVEL COMPLETED				
None or completed kindy	87%			2%
Primary through Class 6	89%			4%
Primary through Class 8	83%			-2%
Jr Secondary	81%			-4%
Sr Secondary	76%			-9%
Post Secondary, University	77%			-8%

Overall, 85% of ni-Vanuatu, an estimated 251,288 individuals, enjoy freely accessible customary lands. Many indigenous ni-Vanuatu living in urban centers do not know if they have access rights, or they may have not developed a connection to the lands that they may have rights to access. A young person raised in Port Vila or Luganville, for example, may have never had an opportunity to visit where they may have indigenous land rights. This helps explain the difference in response from urban and rural dwellers.

People that are in “de facto” relationships, as well as those that have gone through a separation or divorce, are more likely to be alienated from land access than those that are widowed, married, or never married.

Those that achieve higher levels of education are also less likely to believe they have access rights to indigenous lands. Household level access to indigenous lands yields even more insights.

Figure 12 Change in % population with indigenous land access, 2012-2020



The same general pattern of access to indigenous lands was shown the last time this information was collected through the 2012 Pacific Living Conditions Survey. Movements from rural areas to urban centers over the last decade may help explain why more urban dwellers and fewer rural dwellers believe they have indigenous land access rights now than in previous collections. Overall access had decreased since 2012 with a 2% drop in the proportion of ni-Vanuatu with freely accessible customary lands. Either customary land management in Vanuatu in terms of access is not keeping pace with population growth, or the growing youth population do not yet know where their customary land rights lay.

Figure 13 % Households with free access to customary lands by group

	HOUSEHOLDS	BELOW AVG	ABOVE AVG	DIFFERENCE
NATIONAL AVG	85%			
SEX OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD				
Male Head	88%			4%
Female Head	78%			-7%
AGE OF HOUSEHOLD HEAD				
Age 30 and under	81%			-3%
Age 31-64	85%			0%
Age 65 and over	91%			6%
EXPENDITURE QUINTILE				
Lowest 0% - 20%	95%			11%
20% - 40%	91%			6%

40% - 60%	86%		1%
60% - 80%	81%		-3%
Highest 80% - 100%	75%		-10%

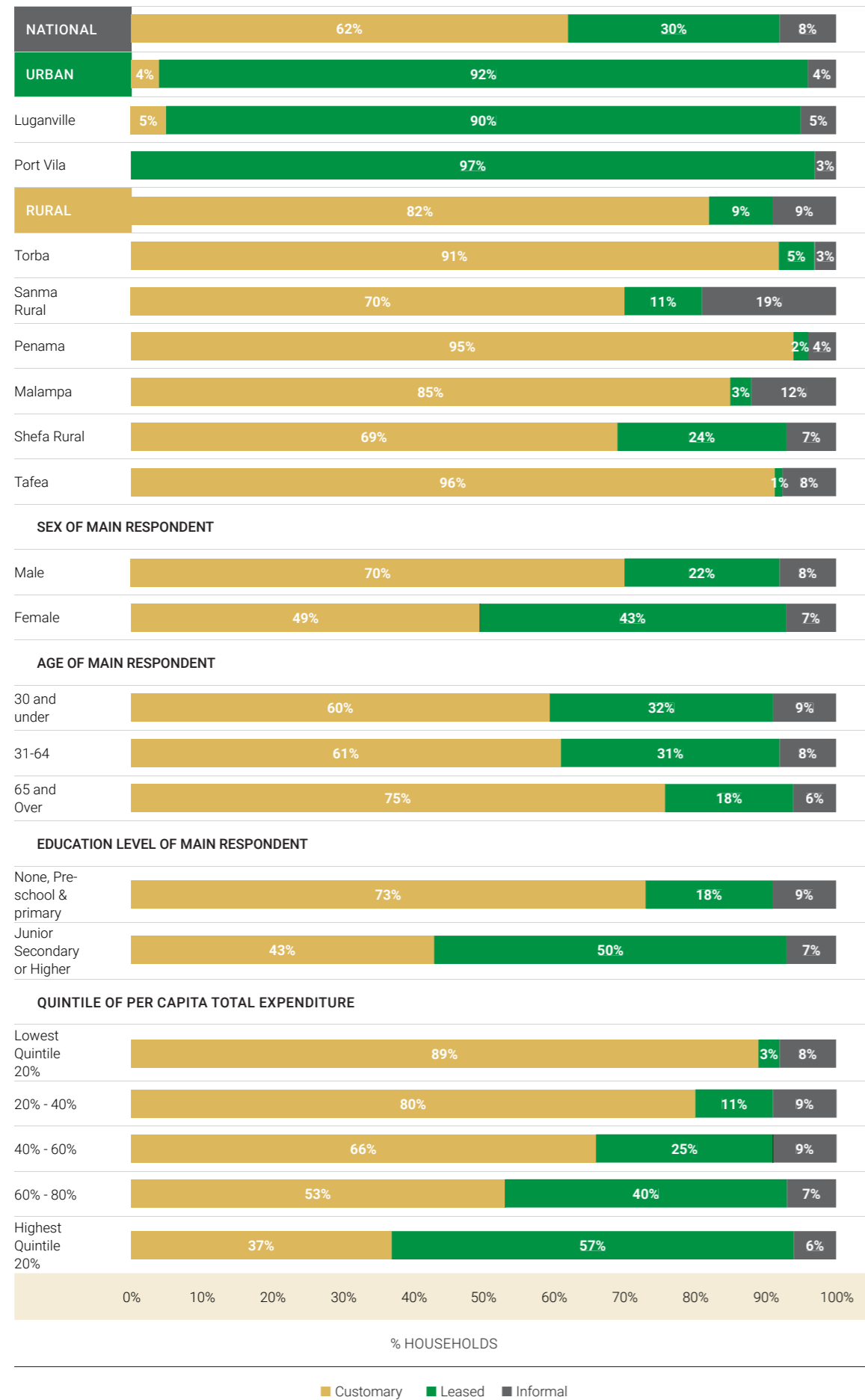
There is a ten-point (percentage) advantage in access to indigenous customary lands for households headed by men in Vanuatu—only 78% of households headed by women reported having access to land, compared with 88% of households headed by men. Households headed by older individuals are more likely to have accessible indigenous customary lands than those that are headed by younger people. At the household level we start to see a trade-off whereby the wealthier a household becomes in monetary terms in Vanuatu, the greater the chance that members may become alienated from indigenous customary land access. This relationship is reflected in individual access and educational attainment.

Figure 14 % Households with access to indigenous customary lands that feel the land is enough or more than enough to meet the needs of their family

	HOUSEHOLDS	BELOW AVG	ABOVE AVG	DIFFERENCE
NATIONAL AVG	94%			
URBAN AVG	98%			
Port Vila	98%			4%
Luganville	99%			5%
RURAL AVG	93%			
Torba	96%			2%
Sanma Rural	91%			-3%
Penama	98%			4%
Malampa	97%			3%
Shefa Rural	82%			-12%
Tafea	98%			4%

The vast majority of households with access to customary lands, 94%, believe it meets or exceeds the needs of their family. The greatest proportion of households responding in the negative was found in rural areas of Shefa Province where 18% reported that their accessible customary lands were not enough to meet the needs of their family. Shefa rural, among all six rural strata of the NSDP Baseline Survey, had the lowest proportion of the population, 87%, with accessible indigenous customary lands. A greater proportion of people living in Shefa Province are alienated from their lands and more dependent on cash for basic needs than people from other rural areas are.

Figure 15 Housing land tenure by area and group

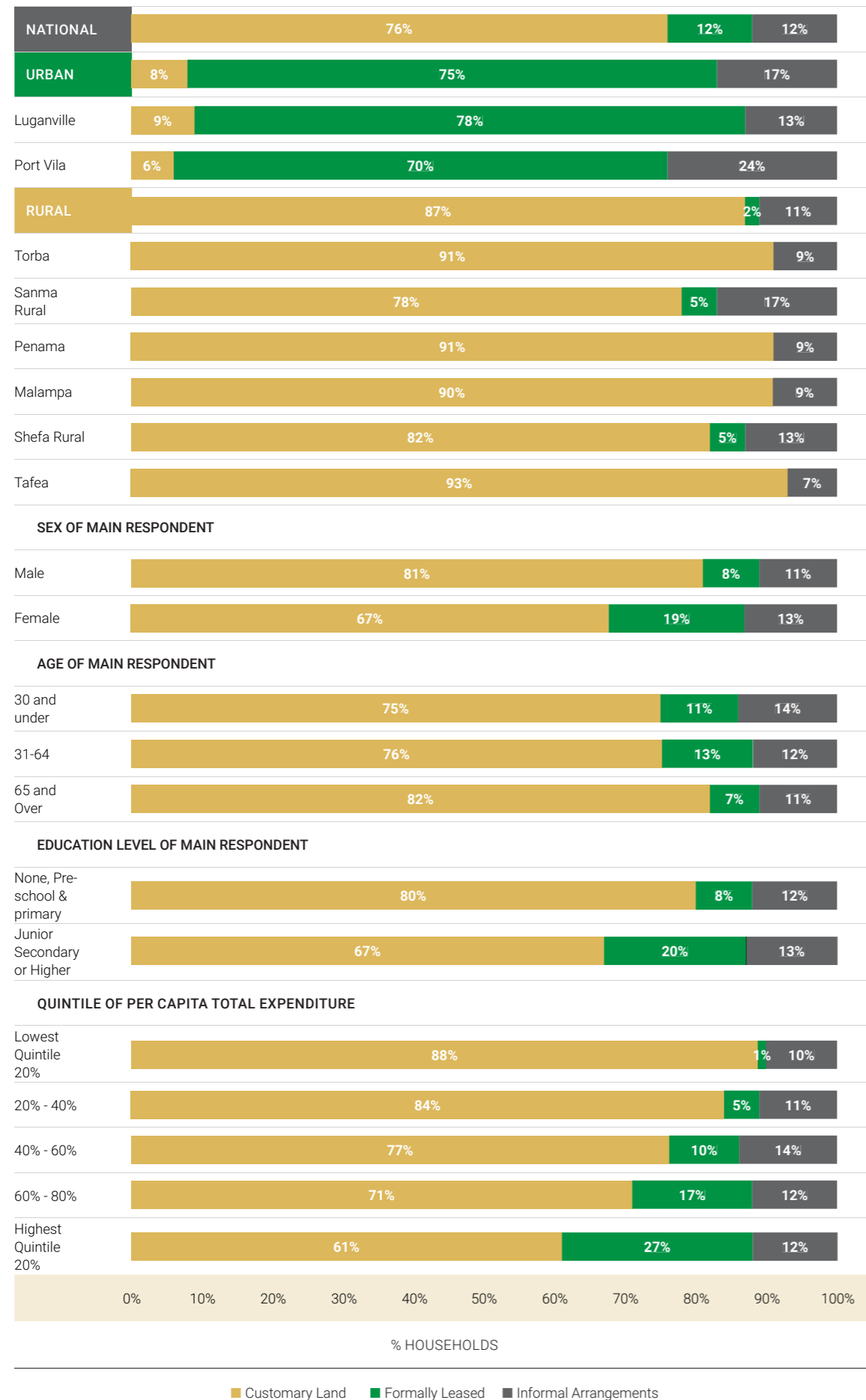


A majority, 62%, of households in Vanuatu are living in housing built on indigenous customary lands. The vast majority of households in urban centers, 92%, live in housing built on leased lands, compared to just 9% of rural households. By contrast, 82% of rural households live in housing built on indigenous customary lands, compared to just 4% of urban households. Informal housing tenure arrangements are the reality for 8% of Vanuatu households. These arrangements may involve cash payments to indigenous landowners, or they may involve friendly or familial granting of temporary usage rights of indigenous lands for housing.

Households headed by men were much more likely to be living in housing built on customary lands. Nearly three in four households headed by men, 70%, are living in housing built on indigenous lands, compared to just 49% of households headed by women. Older households, or those headed by older individuals aged 65 and over, are more likely to be living in housing built on customary lands, as are those with lower educational attainment and lower consumption. This provides further evidence that access to free indigenous lands and resources is a safety net for households that may not have had the same educational or economic opportunities as others. It is also a reminder that women and men do not enjoy the benefits of this traditional safety net equally.



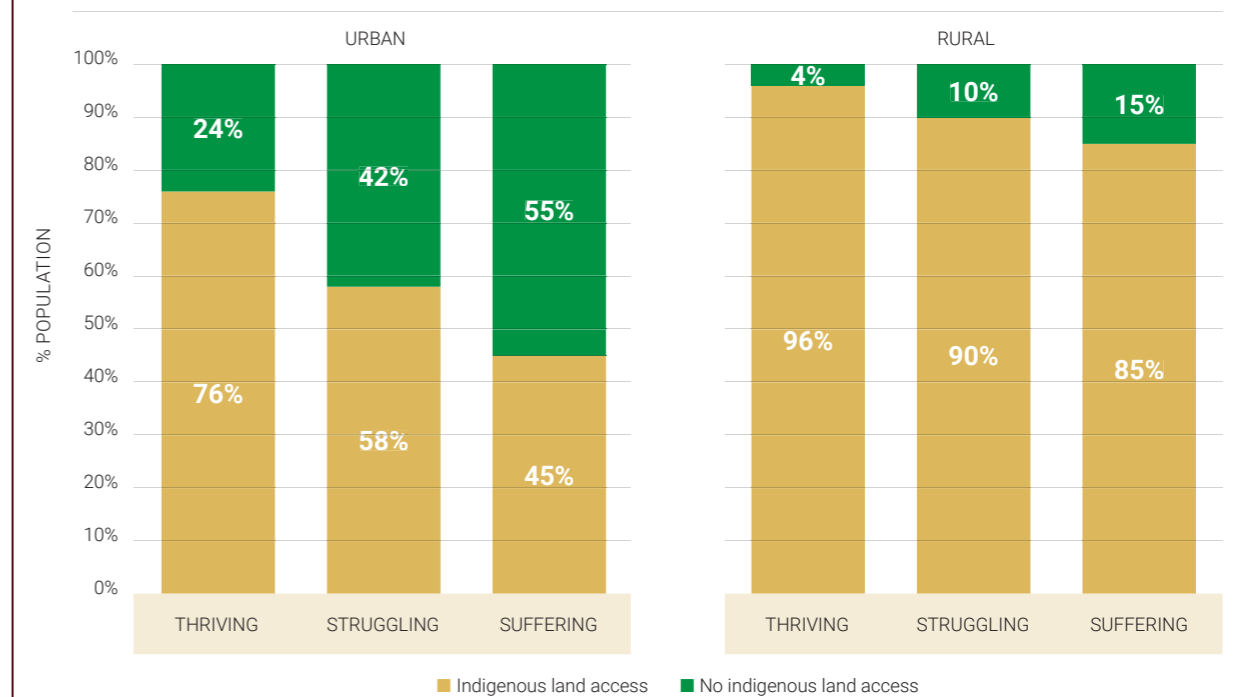
Figure 16 Land tenure of household-farmed lands by area and group



For households actively engaged in farming food crops, the majority, 76%, are farming on indigenous customary lands. This is more the case in rural areas where people are more likely to be living on customary lands. Nearly the same proportion, 75%, of urban households engaged in farming food crops are farming on leased lands, either through urban, rural, or agricultural leases. Those farming on land through informal arrangements may or may not have paid money for the right to use someone else's customary lands. It could be through an informal lease or through a mutual arrangement that does not require cash payment. It could also mean that the household is illegally growing food on someone else's land without their consent. Nearly a quarter, 24%, of households engaged in farming food crops in Luganville are farming on land through informal arrangements such as those just described. Informal arrangements offer the least amount of security.

Households headed by women, more so than households headed by men, are more likely to be farming food crops on land that is either formally leased or accessed through informal arrangements. Higher education outcomes and household consumption levels reduce the likelihood that a household is farming on indigenous customary lands.

Figure 17 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and indigenous land access

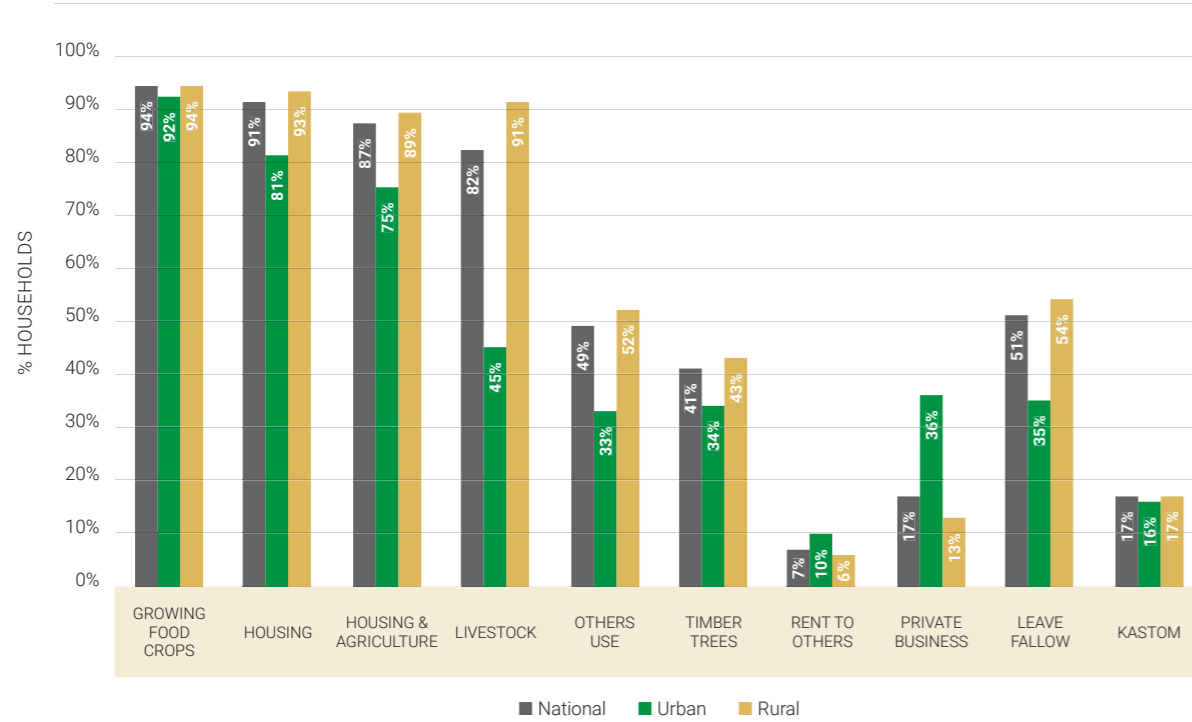


Thriving individuals in Vanuatu are more likely to have free access to indigenous customary lands. This is true for people residing in urban centers as well as in rural areas. Of those considered to be suffering in urban centers, more than half, 55%, do not have access to indigenous lands. Policies that aim to ensure fair and equitable access to customary lands for women and men, and policies that foster a connection to customary lands for those in urban centers, will create conditions where well-being can be maintained for generations. These policies would also ensure a significant proportion of the population has the resources needed to be productive in ways that benefit livelihoods.

Demonstrated Support of Indigenous Land Access

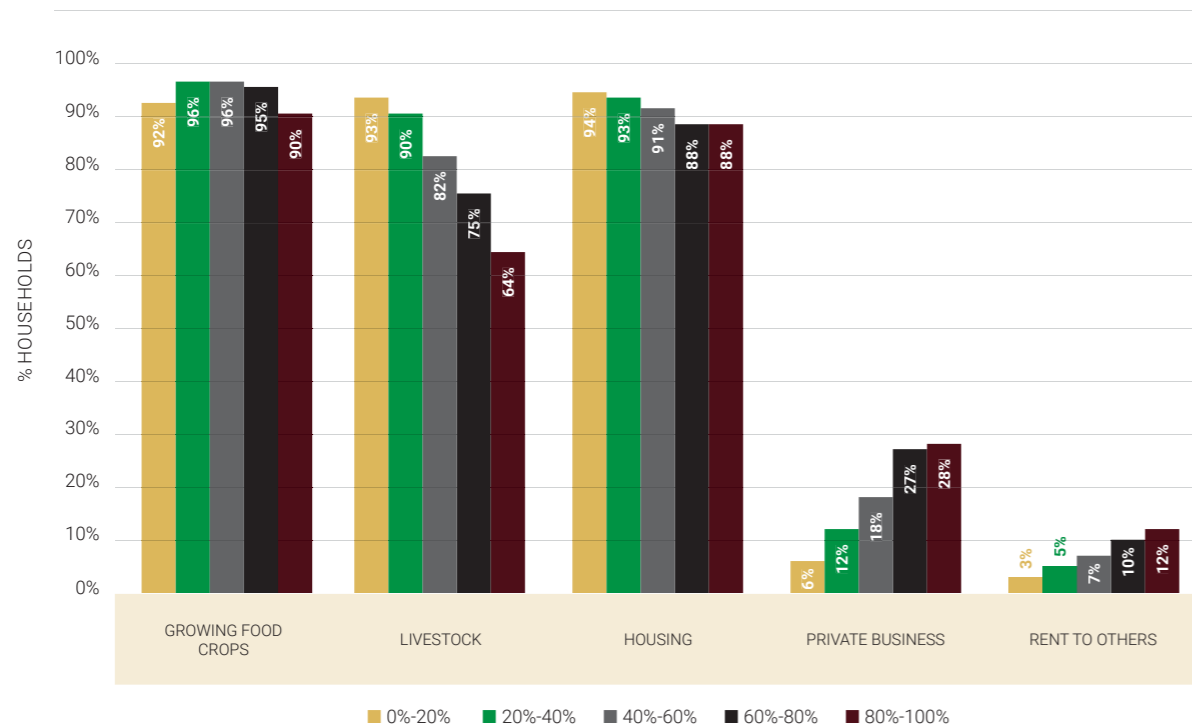
How people use land to support livelihoods is important to consider when examining the benefits of indigenous land access.

Figure 18 % Households using accessible customary lands by purpose



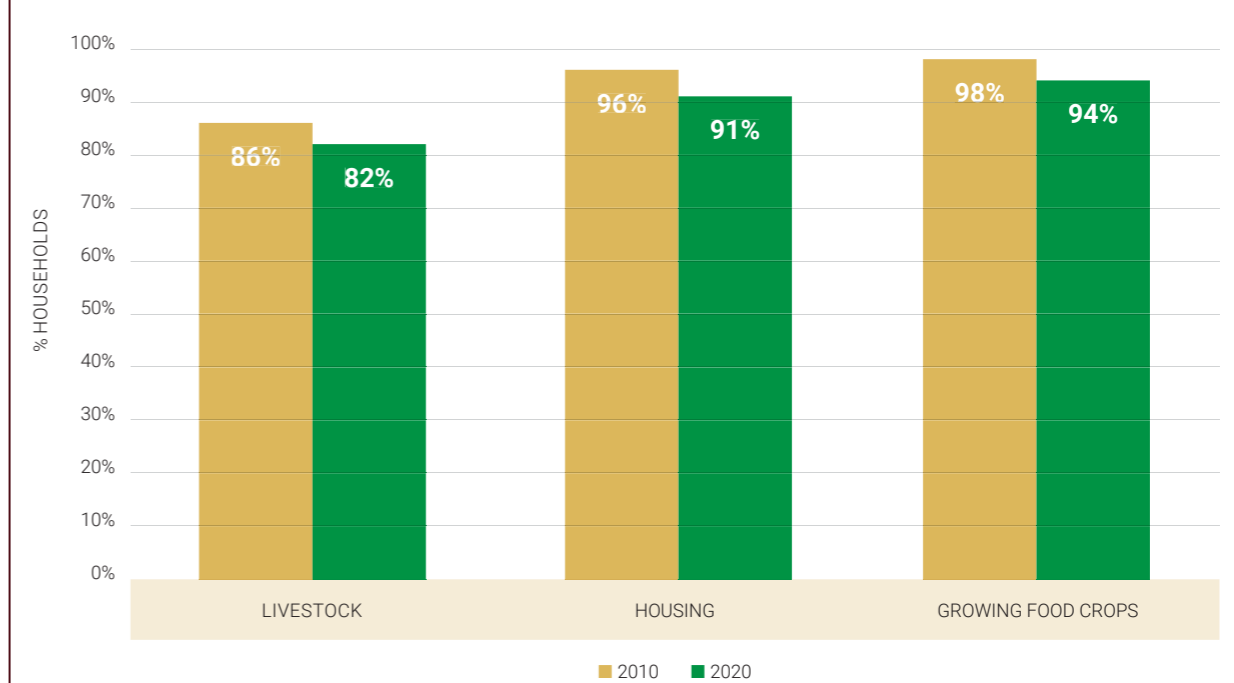
Of those with land access, 87% or nearly 46,000 households in Vanuatu use their accessible customary land for both food production and housing. This indicator also helps report progress against Society Pillar Policy Objective 1.7. Food and housing are critical basic needs. The ability to live and eat free off lands that are not taxed significantly reduces dependence on cash for life's basic needs and defines self-reliance in Vanuatu.

Figure 19 Household expenditure quintile and indigenous customary land use relationships



Growing food crops, raising livestock and housing are customary land uses shared by a majority of households across all expenditure quintiles. Households in the higher expenditure quintile—households with more disposable income—are less likely to use customary lands for housing and for raising livestock and are more likely to use their lands for private business purposes or renting to others than lower cash income households.

Figure 20 Change in % households with access to customary lands used for livestock, housing, food production, 2010-2020



The proportion of households using accessible customary lands for raising livestock, growing food crops and building housing has dropped slightly since 2010, though they remain the predominant uses of indigenous lands in Vanuatu.

Agriculture Activity

A majority of households in Vanuatu are agriculturally productive. They produce food to feed their family, to share with others, for ceremonial exchange, and to earn income. For many families in Vanuatu, farming is a way of life. Parents are accompanied by their children when they go to the gardens to work—these children learn about agriculture from a very early age through observation and, eventually, through practice. The responsibilities of young adults grow with increased expectations until they are eventually providing for their own families. This is typically how an individual learns about the crop cycles, about the boundaries of their family lands, and about the value of hard work.

Figure 21 % Households with members engaged in home production of food crops by area and group

	HOUSEHOLDS	BELOW MEAN	ABOVE MEAN	DIFFERENCE
NATIONAL	83%			
URBAN	42%			-41%
Port Vila	36%			-47%
Luganville	65%			-18%
RURAL	97%			14%
Torba	96%			14%
Sanma Rural	97%			14%
Penama	100%			17%
Malampa	98%			15%
Shefa Rural	93%			10%
Tafea	99%			16%
SEX				
Male	88%			5%
Female	74%			-8%
AGE OF HH HEAD				
30 and under	79%			-4%
31-64	83%			0%
65 & over	89%			6%
EDUCATION OF HH HEAD				
None, Primary	91%			8%
Jr Secondary or higher	69%			-14%
HH EXPENDITURE QUINTILE				
0% - 20%	98%			16%
20% - 40%	97%			14%
40% - 60%	88%			5%
60% - 80%	77%			-6%
80% - 100%	64%			-19%

The vast majority, 97%, of households in rural areas in Vanuatu are engaged in home farming food crops. Agriculture skills are evident in urban centers as well, with nearly two-thirds, 65%, of households in Luganville and over one-third, 36%, of households in Port Vila reporting home production of vegetables and root crops. Households headed by women and by youth age 30 and under are less likely to be growing food for home consumption than those headed by men and by those over the age of 65. The higher the educational attainment of the household head, and likewise the greater the household spends, the less likely they are to be engaged in agricultural production.

Figure 22 % Households reporting consumption of (free) home produced vegetables and/or root crops by area

	HOUSEHOLDS
NATIONAL	81%
URBAN	37%
RURAL	96%

People living in rural areas are more likely to enjoy free, home-produced vegetables and root crops for consumption. There are, however, more than a third, 37%, of households in urban centers that are able to produce some vegetables and root crops to support home consumption. Overall, 81% of households in Vanuatu have demonstrated the benefits of access to lands for food production and home consumption.

The NSDP Baseline Survey found significant differences in the variety of home produced vegetables and root crops consumed by households in urban and rural areas on a weekly basis. Households in Penama Province consume the most variety of free home produced vegetables and root crops. More than two-thirds, 67%, of households in Penama Province reported consumption of more than five different kinds of home produced vegetables and root crops each week. By contrast, only 3% of Port Vila households reported the same, while more than two thirds, 68%, reported having consumed no free home produced vegetables or root crops each week.

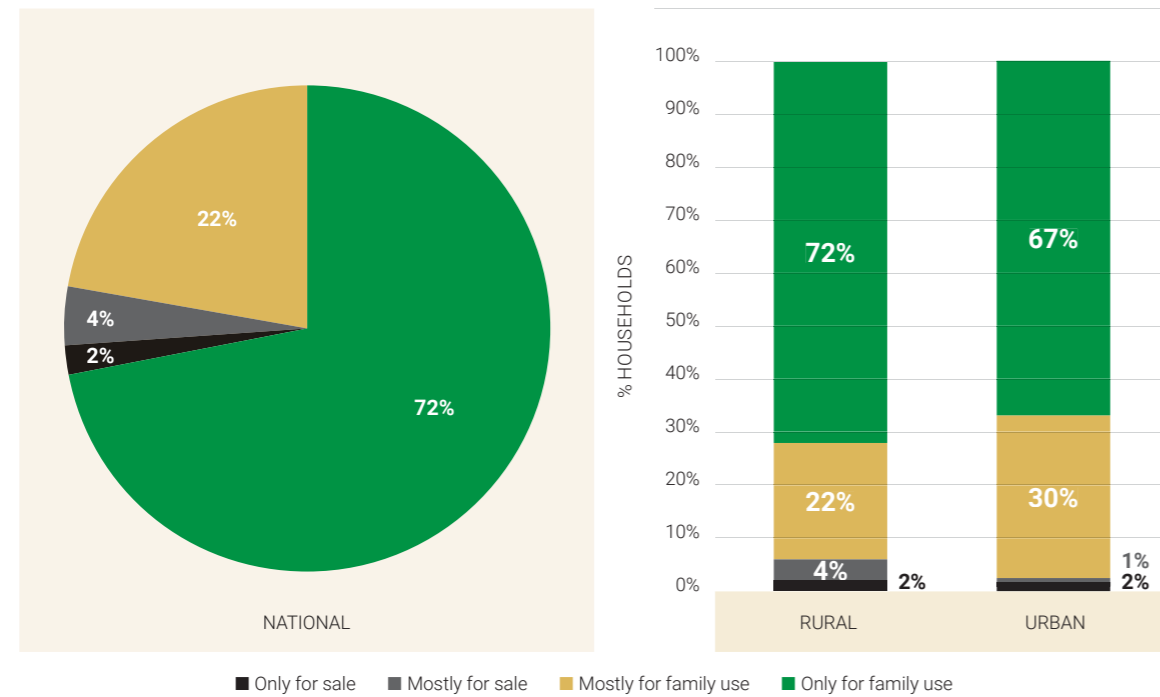
In relation to indigenous land access and tenure of land used for agriculture, households headed by women are less likely than households headed by men to consume free, home-produced vegetables and root crops. Younger households and households headed by individuals that have achieved a Junior Secondary education or higher are less likely to consume free, home-produced vegetables and root crops, as are households in the higher expenditure quintiles. The converse is true—households headed by women and households headed by younger individuals, as well as households in higher expenditure quintiles are more likely to have to purchase vegetables and root crops for consumption.

Slippery cabbage (*Abelmoschus manihot*), known predominantly as “island cabbage” in Vanuatu, dominates the vegetable category of agricultural produce harvested by households—83% of households harvest island cabbage at least once a month. It is a staple of the diets of people all over Vanuatu, with 83% of households having harvested island cabbage at some point in the month leading up to the survey. Island cabbage contains a range of nutrients for good health, including antioxidants, high levels of Beta-carotene as well as a good source of Folate, Calcium, Magnesium and Potassium¹⁷.



17 “Abelmoschus manihot.” *Iplantz – useful plants for warm climates*, 17 May 2021, <https://www.iplantz.com/plant/3/abelmoschus-manihot/>.

Figure 23 Main purpose for planting island cabbage

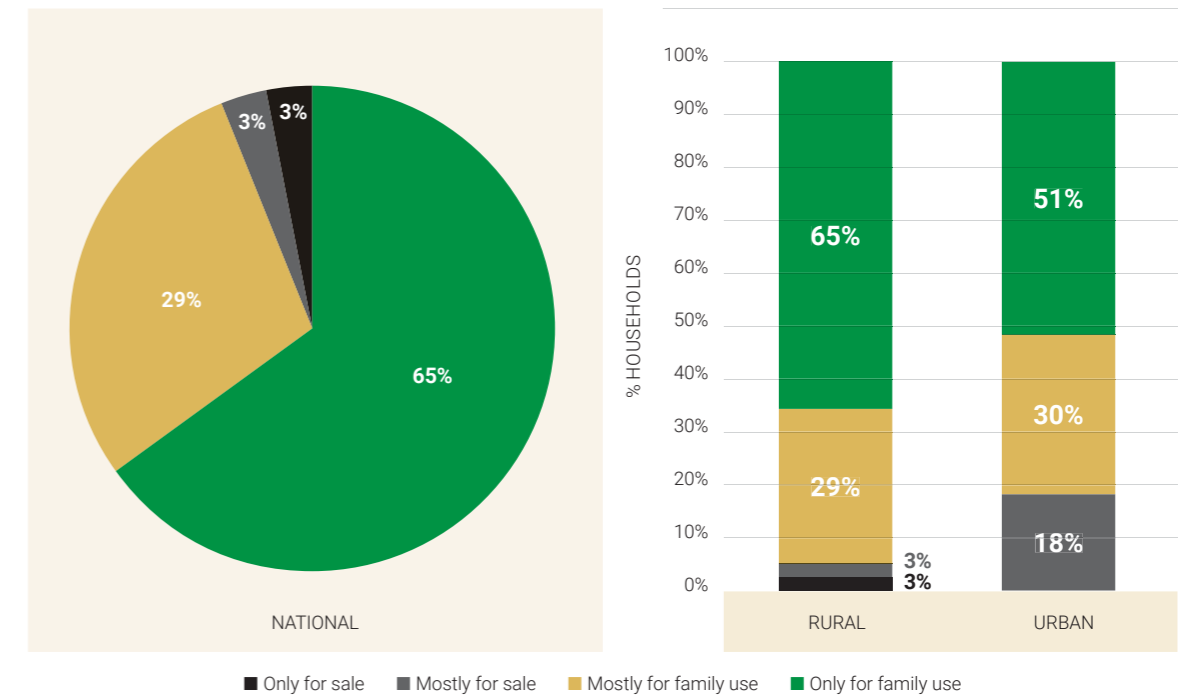


The vast majority, 94%, of households in Vanuatu that harvested island cabbage within the 30-day recall period did so mostly or only for family use. The cultivation of island cabbage is predominantly for feeding members of the household or sharing with others and not for sale.

Taro, including water taro and dry land or Fiji taro, is the most popular root crop cultivated in Vanuatu—more households reported harvesting taro than any other root crop in Vanuatu. Manioc is a close second, and a favorite for urban households engaged in farming food crops. Some varieties of manioc can be harvested within a few months after planting. The same is true for the sweet potato known locally as “kumala” which is the second most popular root crop among urban households and fourth most popular among rural households. Yam, with strong cultural importance throughout much of the country, is surprisingly only third nationally. It should be said, however, that yams are an annual seasonal crop, as opposed to taro, manioc and kumala, which can be harvested throughout the year. Urban households were more likely to plant temporary crops that can be planted and harvested within a year. Wild yam and kava, which take a few years to mature, are nearly absent from urban household harvests.

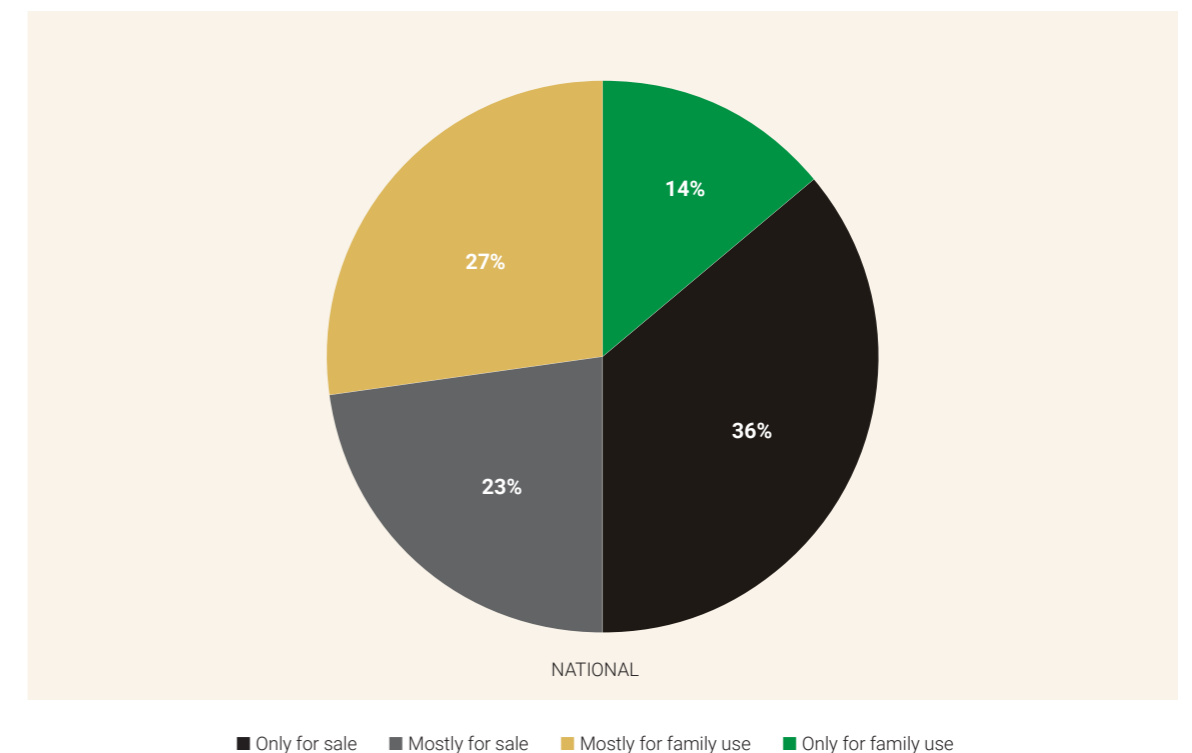
Regional differences in harvested root crops illustrate cultural preferences and popularity. Taro was harvested by over three-quarters of households engaged in farming food crops in rural Sanma, Penama and Malampa Provinces within the 30-day recall period. Manioc was harvested by more than half of all rural households engaged in farming food crops, with the exception of rural Sanma households. More than half of households in Torba and Malampa Provinces harvested yams. Kumala was harvested by more than half of households engaged in farming food crops in Tafea and Torba Provinces only, and only Torba Province had a majority of agriculturally engaged households harvesting wild yam within the 30-day recall period.

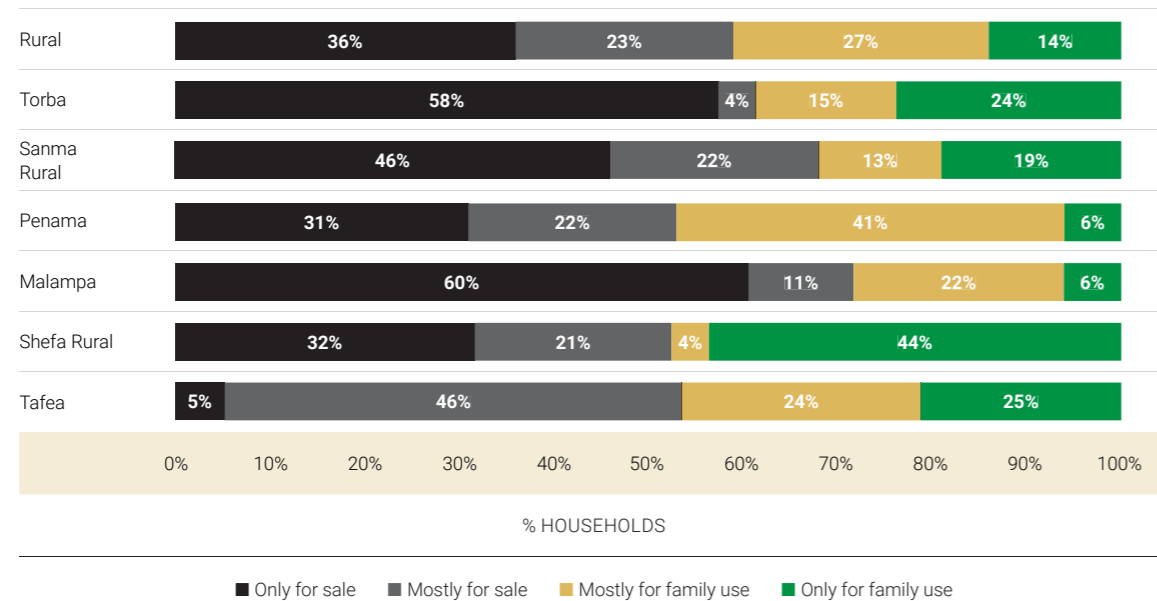
Figure 24 Main purpose for planting taro



Nearly all, 94%, of rural households plant and harvest taro only or mostly for home consumption or for family use. Of the few urban households harvesting taro, only 18% reported the purpose of farming taro was for sale. This scenario would change for cash crops that have been pushed for their domestic and export market value, such as kava. Kava is harvested by a majority, 54%, of households in Penama Province engaged in farming food crops.

Figure 25 Main purpose for planting kava

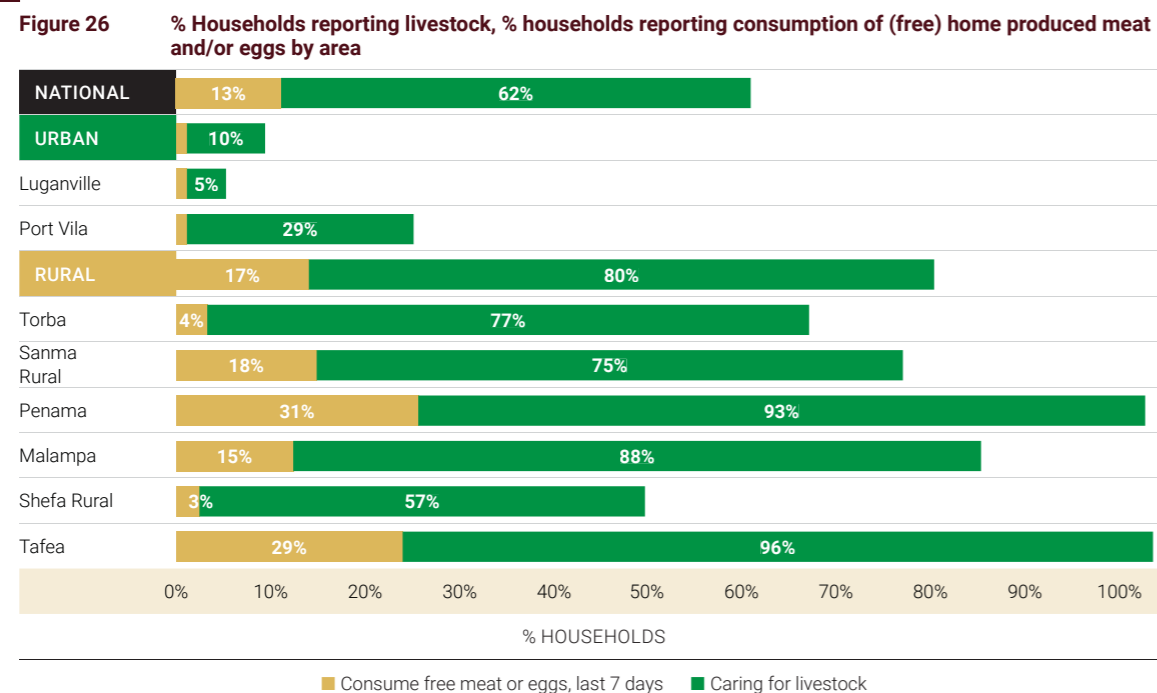




More than half, 59%, of all households harvesting kava within the 30-day recall period stated the purpose of farming kava was mostly or only for income generation. This is driven in rural areas where households are more likely to farm longer-term crops such as kava on land where they enjoy the security of user rights. The income incentive is the strongest among households harvesting kava in Malampa, Torba and rural Sanma Provinces, and lowest in Tafea Province where still a majority of kava producing households sell most or all of their kava holdings when harvested. Just under half, 48%, of households in rural Shefa Province grow kava mostly or only for consumption rather than for sale.

Livestock Activity

Time spent gardening is rewarded with food and sometimes with income for the family. The same is true for livestock. The more care you put into keeping your livestock fed and healthy, the more likely you will be to benefit from the meat and eggs produced. Caring for livestock is another way traditional knowledge is demonstrated in Vanuatu. Pigs, cattle and poultry all have value in traditional ceremonial exchange and feasting in Vanuatu.



More than half, 62%, of households in Vanuatu are caring for livestock of some kind. The benefits of caring for livestock are evident—13% of households in Vanuatu report weekly consumption of meat or eggs from home production. Rural households are more active in caring for livestock. More than three-quarters of rural households care for livestock of some kind, with the exception of rural Shefa. Luganville is more active than Port Vila, with nearly 30% of households reporting some livestock under their care. Households in Tafea and Penama Provinces were more likely to have livestock of some kind, and roughly 30% of households in each of these two provinces reported having consumed meat or eggs that were home produced and free. Households headed by women were far less likely to be caring for and benefitting from livestock than those headed by men. Education and income show a negative relationship whereby the higher level of formal education attained by the household head and the larger the expenditure of the household the less likely it was to have livestock of some kind.

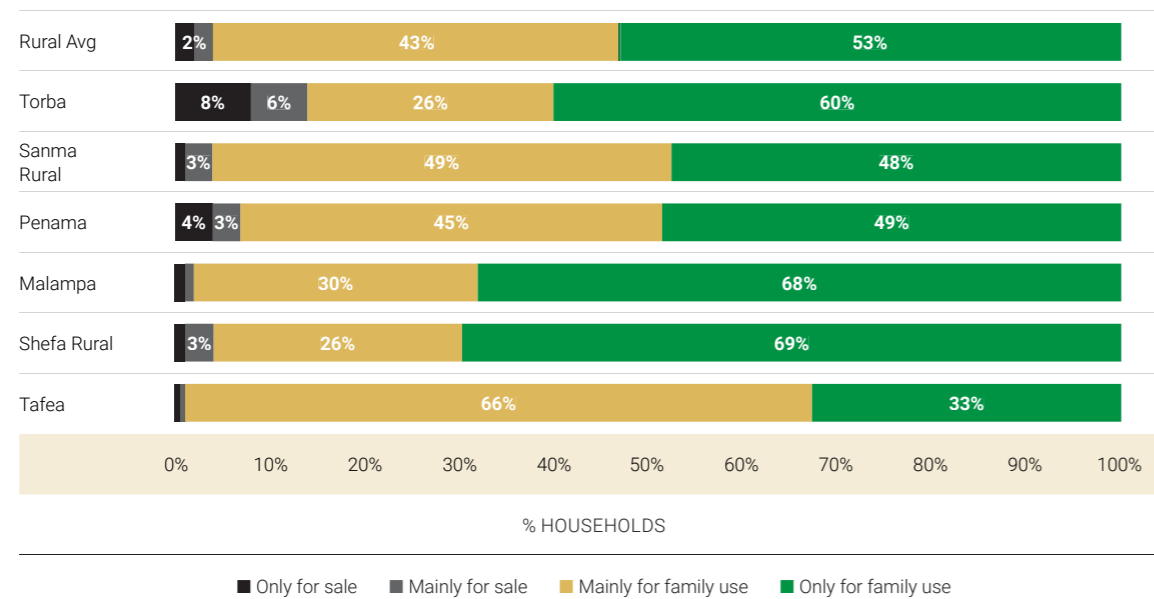
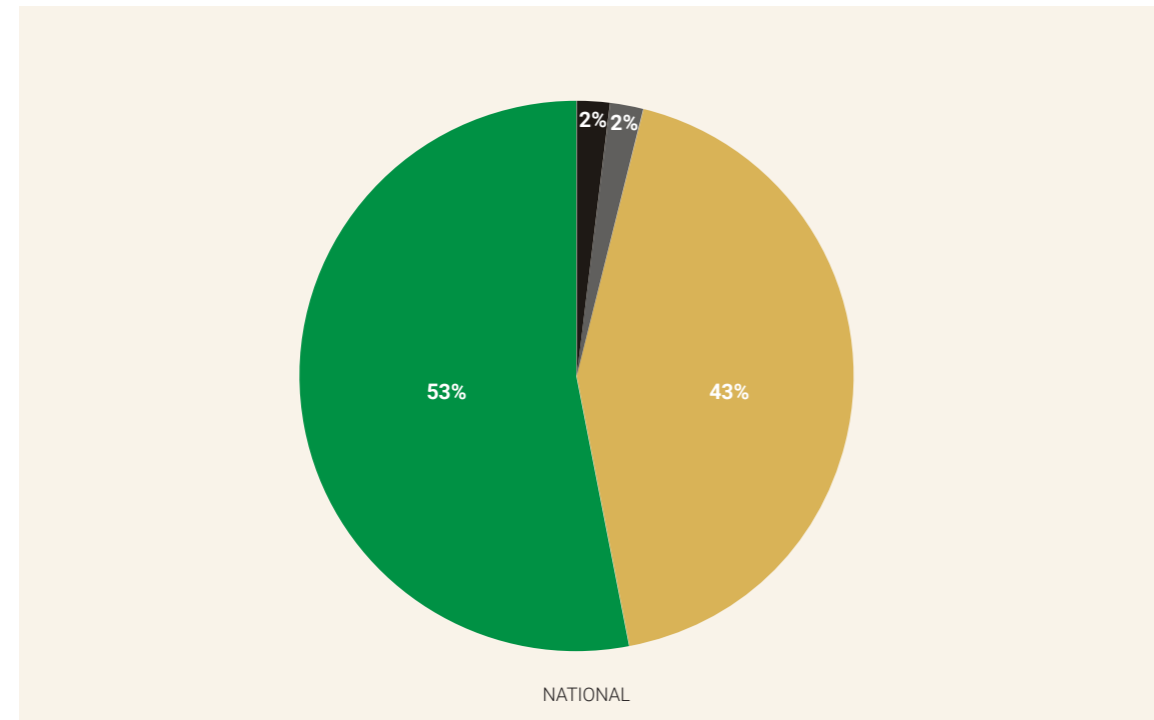
More than half, 53%, of households in Vanuatu have poultry they feed for meat and/or eggs. Poultry is most prevalent in households in Tafea, Penama and Malampa Provinces. Less than half, 40%, of households in Vanuatu feed pigs. Pigs have cultural significance throughout the country. Households in Tafea and Penama Provinces are more likely to have pigs than other rural areas of the country. Cattle has the most cultural significance in places like rural Sanma, Penama and Malampa Provinces where they are required following the death of a family member. Roughly two out of every five households in these three provinces looks after cattle. Nanny goats are less common, cared for by only 5% of households nationally, although 16% of households in Tafea Province own nanny goats.

Poultry, usually referred to locally as “fowl”, is the most common type of livestock in Vanuatu, however, the vast majority of households consider the poultry they care for to be primarily for meat. Over half, 52%, of households in Vanuatu care for meat poultry, compared to just 5% of households that own layer poultry for egg production. More than three quarters of households in Tafea, Penama and Malampa Provinces feed meat poultry. Rural Sanma households take the lead on layer poultry with 20% of households feeding poultry for egg production. Households in urban centers, based on existing laws, should not have livestock. Despite laws prohibiting livestock within municipal boundaries, one can still hear a rooster crow in the heart of Port Vila each morning. Caring for livestock is a way of life in Vanuatu.

In terms of the average number of poultry each household has, a majority, 60%, of households with meat poultry own between 1 and 10 poultry. More than half, 51%, of households in Penama Province with meat poultry own more than 10.

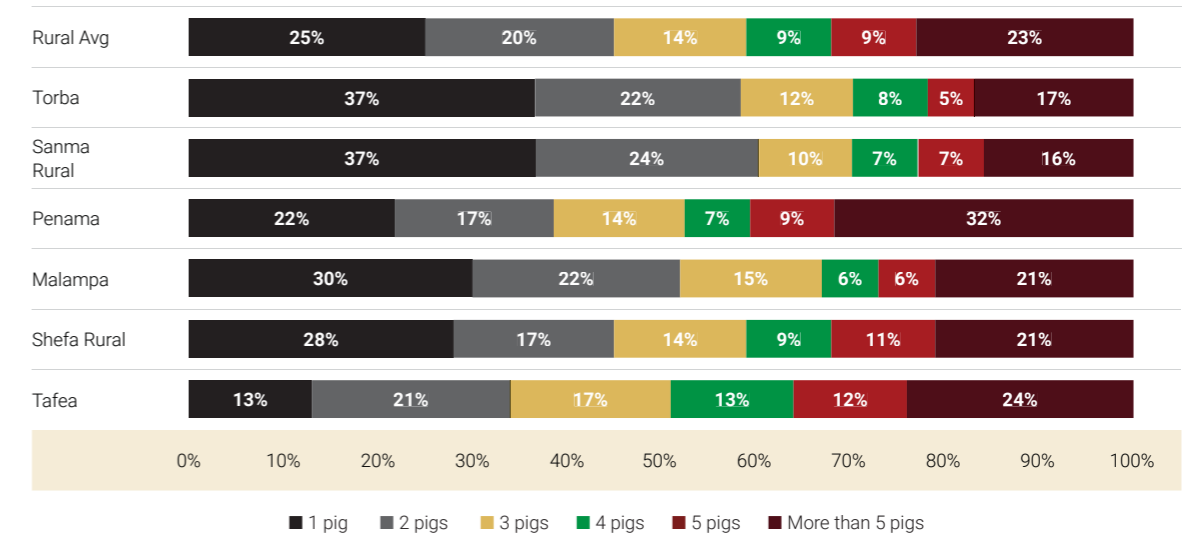


Figure 27 Purpose of looking after meat poultry



The purpose of looking after meat poultry is predominantly for family consumption or use. More than half, 53%, of households with meat poultry do not sell any of what they produce. This is not the case in all areas, even in rural places more likely to have meat poultry. Two-thirds, 66%, of households in Tafea Province sell some, not most, of what they produce, and the rest sell none. The purpose of households owning meat poultry is different from the purpose households report for owning layer poultry.

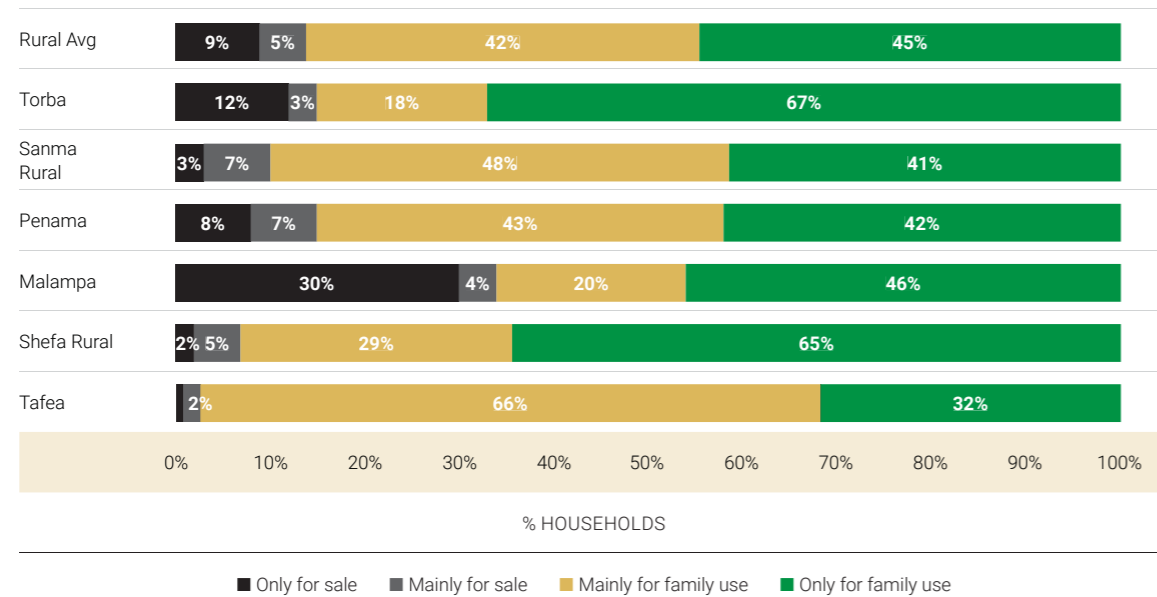
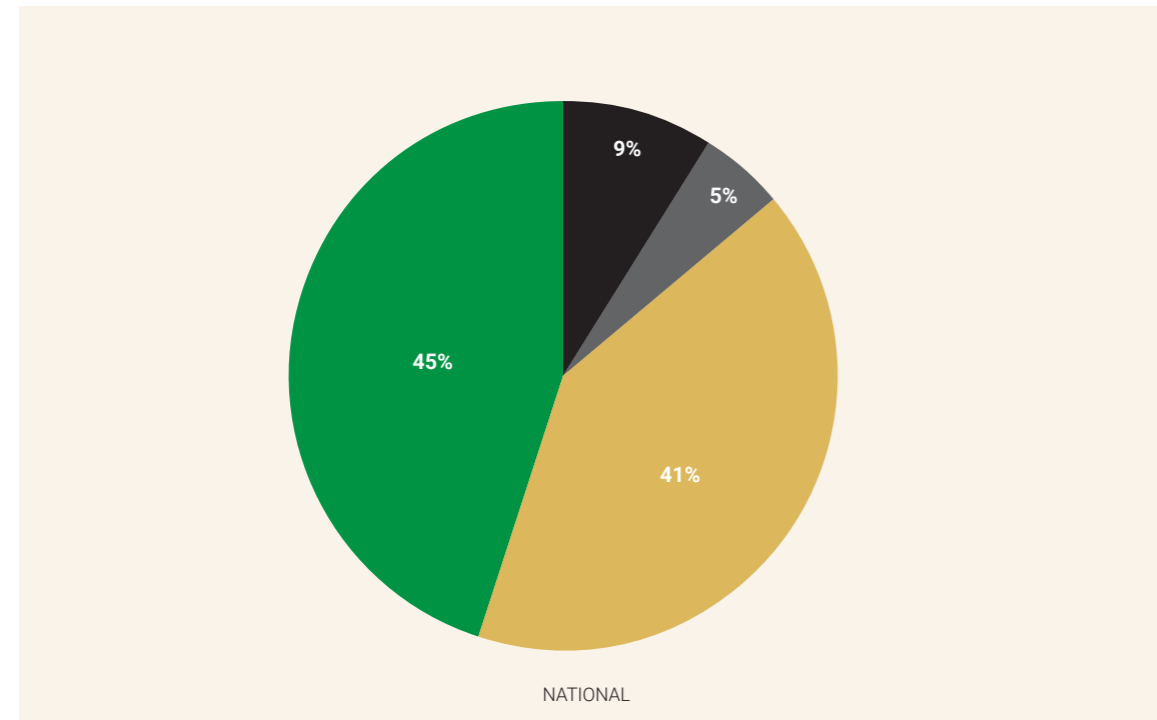
Figure 28 % rural households with pigs by number of pigs owned



Pigs are owned by 40% of households in Vanuatu, and most of that is concentrated in rural areas where more than half, 52%, of households own pigs. A majority of households in rural areas own between one and three pigs each. Nearly one-third, 32%, of households in Penama Province have more than five pigs that they care for. A greater proportion of households in Tafea and Penama own pigs than in other provinces and in each of these provinces the number of pigs per pig-owning household is greater than in other rural areas of Vanuatu. Households in Tafea and Penama Provinces hold more living wealth in the form of pigs than do households in other parts of the country.



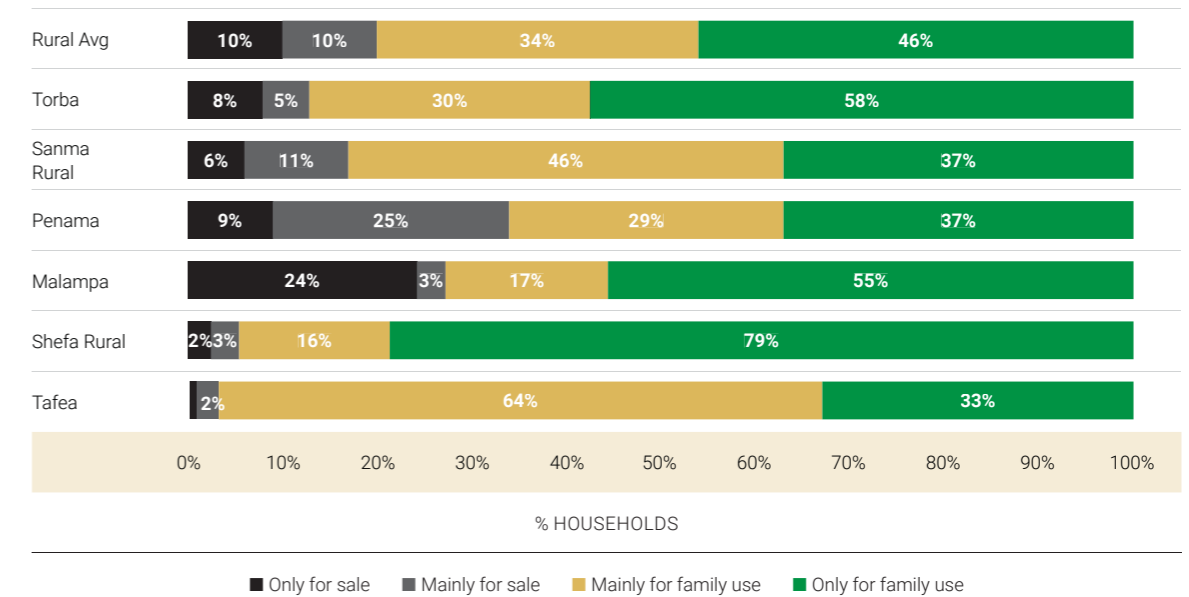
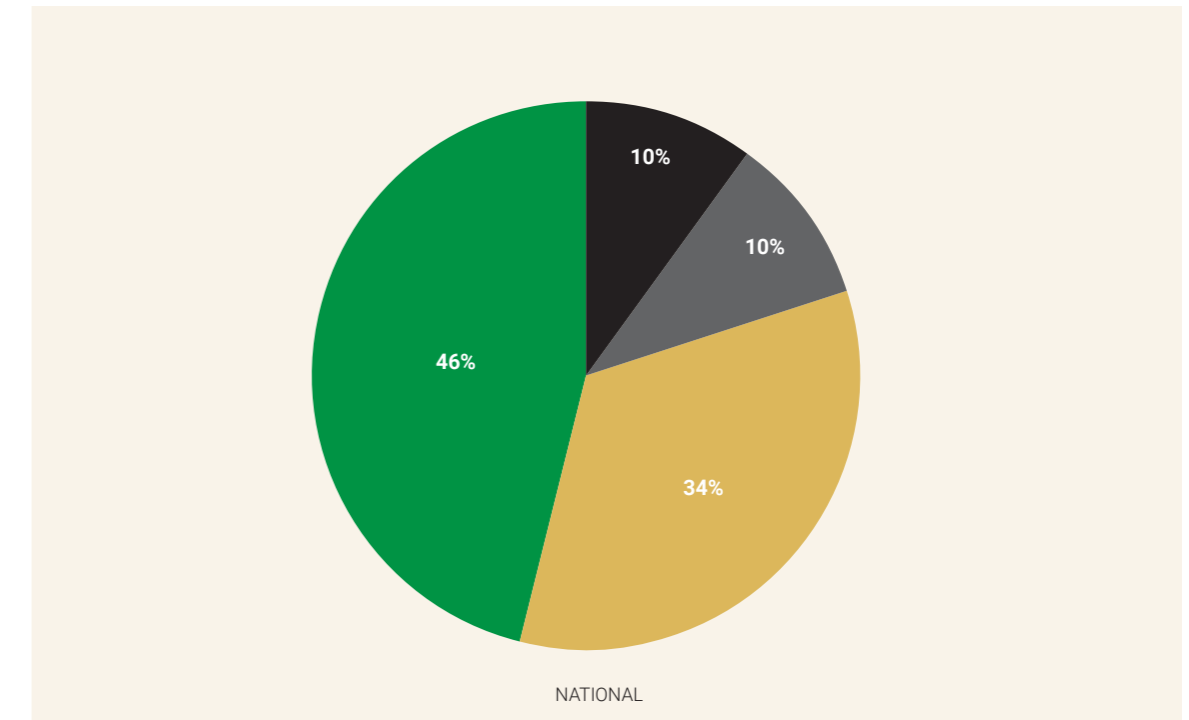
Figure 29 Purpose of looking after pigs



Less than half, 45%, of households with pigs are raising pigs only for family use—home consumption or for use in ceremonial exchange. Another 41% of households with pigs reserve most of their pigs for family use. Only 14% of pig owning households are profit oriented and seek income from the sale of the pigs they raise. The profit orientation is greatest among pig owning households in Malampa Province, where more than one-third of households with pigs raise them primarily for income.

Nearly one in four households, 24%, own cattle in Vanuatu, predominantly in rural areas. The average number of cattle owned varies from place to place. Noteworthy is the more prolific number of cattle owned by households in rural Sanma Province. In this province, where the death of a family member could signal the death of several cattle, nearly half, 48%, of households looking after cattle own five or more on average. Perhaps due to the small population or small area of land for grazing, only 20% of households that own cattle in Torba Province own five or more.

Figure 30 Purpose of looking after cattle (bullock)



Nearly half, 46%, of households with cattle keep them for family use only. This is true for more than half of the households in rural Shefa, Torba and Malampa Provinces. Households in Malampa and Penama Provinces are the most profit oriented when it comes to cattle. More than a quarter of households in these two provinces own livestock mostly or only for purposes of selling them for income.

Land Registration and Leasing

Customary lands in Vanuatu belong to a collective. Indigenous ni-Vanuatu are custodians of the land and are responsible for continuing the investments made by their ancestors in cultivating and protecting the land. They are also responsible for passing these responsibilities to the next generation.

Vanuatu has struggled to maintain indigenous control of the land since Independence in 1980. The country's early legal framework allowed for leases, over time, to be unfair to indigenous ni-Vanuatu with little to no prior informed consent. Profit oriented investments in land and the nature of lease agreements disenfranchised traditional landowners. A National Land Summit, triggered by concerns of indigenous land alienation, produced 20 resolutions to address the issues facing the nation in 2006. Among these resolutions was one that denounced individual ownership of land by declaring, "Not one person (individual) is an owner of any traditionally owned (kastom) land."

The Land Summit set off an ambitious program of reform consultations culminating in what is now the Custom Land Management Act passed by the Vanuatu Parliament into law in 2013. The new Act established a legal framework that ensured land dealings are done in the best interest of the customary landowners and the country. The discussion on land management continues today in Vanuatu, where land reform consultations have been underway for the last year to look at ways the current laws can be improved and harmonized.

Figure 31: % Households with indigenous customary lands formally registered, under lease agreement by area

		HOUSEHOLDS
NATIONAL	Registered	13%
	Leased	9%
URBAN	Registered	37%
	Leased	27%
Port Vila	Registered	43%
	Leased	31%
Luganville	Registered	15%
	Leased	11%
RURAL	Registered	7%
	Leased	5%
Torba	Registered	23%
	Leased	9%
Sanma Rural	Registered	8%
	Leased	5%
Penama	Registered	2%
	Leased	1%
Malampa	Registered	1%
	Leased	0%
Shefa Rural	Registered	17%
	Leased	14%
Tafea	Registered	1%
	Leased	0%

SEX OF HH HEAD		
Male	Registered	11%
	Leased	8%
Female	Registered	16%
	Leased	11%
AGE OF HH HEAD		
30 and Under	Registered	11%
	Leased	7%
31-64	Registered	14%
	Leased	10%
65 and over	Registered	12%
	Leased	9%
EDUCATION OF HH HEAD		
Class 8 down	Registered	8%
	Leased	5%
Class 9 up	Registered	23%
	Leased	17%
HH EXPENDITURE QUINTILE		
0% - 20%	Registered	2%
	Leased	1%
20% - 40%	Registered	5%
	Leased	3%
40% - 60%	Registered	11%
	Leased	7%
60% - 80%	Registered	19%
	Leased	15%
80% - 100%	Registered	31%
	Leased	22%

Nationally, 13% of households with accessible customary lands—an estimated 6,801 households—have formally registered part, or all, of their lands and have been issued a land title by the Department of Lands. Formal leasing of registered lands is reported by 9% of households with access, or 4,733 households. Over one-third, 37%, of households in urban centers have formally registered part of their lands, and 27% have registered lands under formal lease agreements. It is particularly the case for Port Vila, where nearly half, 43%, of the households with accessible customary lands have registered part of their customary lands. Land registration and leasing is far less common in rural areas, where only 7% of households with accessible customary lands have formally registered part of their land with Department of Lands and 5% have registered lands under formal lease agreements.

Households headed by individuals that achieved higher levels of formal education, as well as those that are in the highest income quintile, are more likely than lower income households to have some customary lands registered through Department of Lands and to have some registered lands under formal lease agreements. Land registration and formal leasing does appear to be driven by income incentives for those that rely more heavily on the cash economy to meet basic needs. Education and location appear to be determining factors on access to land registration and leasing in 2020.

Free Access to Forest and Marine Resources

Freely accessible forest and marine resources present opportunities for good diets with abundant wild fruit and nut varieties, wild animals and seafood for the taking. Access to forests and coastal areas also opens opportunities for access to free cooking fuel (firewood), traditional medicinal herbs, and sea transport (canoe materials and access to the sea).

Figure 32 % Population with free access to forest and marine resources by area

		POPULATION	BELOW AVG	ABOVE AVG	DIFFERENCE
NATIONAL	Forest	83%			
	Marine	71%			
URBAN	Forest	75%			-18%
	Marine	48%			-23%
Port Vila	Forest	71%			-22%
	Marine	42%			-28%
Luganville	Forest	92%			-1%
	Marine	67%			-4%
RURAL	Forest	100%			6%
	Marine	79%			8%
Torba	Forest	98%			5%
	Marine	95%			24%
Sanma Rural	Forest	100%			7%
	Marine	69%			-1%
Penama	Forest	100%			7%
	Marine	93%			22%
Malampa	Forest	100%			7%
	Marine	81%			10%
Shefa Rural	Forest	99%			5%
	Marine	81%			10%
Tafea	Forest	100%			7%
	Marine	68%			-3%

Rural populations, where a vast majority reside on customary lands, are more likely to enjoy freely accessible items from the sea and forest. Marine resources are more accessible to those living in coastal communities. Freely accessible forest resources look to be nearly universal throughout rural parts of Vanuatu. Access to forest and marine resources can be viewed as a cost savings. Maintaining sustainable access ensures people today and future generations can enjoy a level of economic self-reliance unknown to most people in developed countries.

Figure 33 Free weekly household consumption of fruits and/or nuts by areas

	HOUSEHOLDS
NATIONAL	89%
URBAN	65%
RURAL	98%

Fruit and nut trees are long-term land investments that bring seasonal opportunities to subsidize the local diet with protein, vitamins and nutrients. A majority of households, 89%, consumed fruits or nuts that were freely accessible to them, growing either on their customary lands or in a place where they had rights to consume. More than one-third, 35%, of households in urban areas reported no consumption of fruits or nuts of any kind that were home produced, or grown on trees they have access to. Households in Penama Province reported the greatest variety of home produced fruits and nuts consumed, more than any other place in the country with 72% of households reporting consumption of six or more different kinds.

Demonstrated Support of Forest and Marine Resource Access

Free access to forest resources provides a source of renewable cooking fuel and building materials, as well as fruits and nuts that supplement dietary needs. Access to free fish and wild animals provide additional nutritional support to households in Vanuatu. There is no greater source of free protein than fish and seafood, available to most coastal communities in rural areas.

Fishing Activity

Figure 34 % Households engaged in fishing, consuming fish from home production (free) by area

		HOUSEHOLDS	BELOW AVG	ABOVE AVG	DIFFERENCE
NATIONAL	Actively Fishing	31%			
	Fish Consumption	29%			
URBAN	Actively Fishing	9%			-22%
	Fish Consumption	8%			-21%
Port Vila	Actively Fishing	8%			-22%
	Fish Consumption	8%			-21%
Luganville	Actively Fishing	10%			-20%
	Fish Consumption	10%			-19%

Area	Category	Percentage	Change
RURAL	Actively Fishing	38%	8%
	Fish Consumption	37%	7%
Torba	Actively Fishing	75%	45%
	Fish Consumption	74%	45%
Sanma Rural	Actively Fishing	23%	-7%
	Fish Consumption	22%	-7%
Penama	Actively Fishing	55%	25%
	Fish Consumption	54%	25%
Malampa	Actively Fishing	46%	15%
	Fish Consumption	46%	16%
Shefa Rural	Actively Fishing	31%	0%
	Fish Consumption	27%	-3%
Tafea	Actively Fishing	28%	-2%
	Fish Consumption	27%	-3%

Nearly one-third, 31%, of households in Vanuatu are actively engaged in fishing. Nearly the same proportion, 29%, of households reported consumption of fish or seafood from home production. Nowhere is fishing and fish consumption more prevalent than in Torba Province, where three quarters, 75%, of households reported having members actively engaged in fishing within the 7-day recall period, and 74% of households reported weekly consumption of free fish and seafood. Traditional leaders and the government manage fishing activity to ensure inshore fisheries can be as productive for generations to come.

Households headed by men were more likely to have had members actively engaged in fishing activities and more likely to consume fish and seafood from home production on a weekly basis. There is slightly less fishing activity among households in the lowest expenditure quintile compared with those in the middle. This may mean there are financial barriers to fishing and lower income households are not able to afford fishing equipment, or it could reflect that more lower income households are located inland and do not have the same level of access to marine resources as coastal communities.

Table 3 Main fishing methods used by households active in fishing and seafood collection

	NET*	HANDLINE*	TROLLING	SPEARFISHING NIGHT	SPEARFISHING DAY	GLEANNIG / COLLECTING
NATIONAL	20%	39%	7%	19%	15%	13%
URBAN	30%	40%	5%	16%	14%	6%
Port Vila	35%	35%	4%	16%	13%	8%
Luganville	14%	55%	7%	17%	15%	2%
RURAL	19%	38%	8%	19%	16%	14%
Torba	24%	41%	7%	32%	31%	8%
Sanma Rural	14%	50%	10%	9%	19%	8%
Penama	13%	34%	9%	13%	12%	20%

Malampa	25%	34%	9%	13%	12%	20%
Shefa Rural	20%	34%	4%	24%	9%	15%
Tafea	21%	48%	14%	15%	17%	16%

* Net includes beach, gill, or cast ** Handline includes drop stone, pole fishing or rod and reel

Nearly 40% of households that engaged in fishing activities fished with a hand line, while 34% fished with a spear gun at night or during the day. One out of every five households that engaged in fishing activities used a net. Trolling, used primarily for fish found deeper at sea, was used by just 7% of households engaged in fishing activities. Gleaning, or collecting, was used by 13% of households engaged in fishing activities. Gleaning pertains primarily to the collection of shellfish and crabs.

Table 4 Main fish catch of households active in fishing and seafood collection by area

	REEF FISH	*COMMERCIAL INVERTEBRATES	**OTHER INVERTEBRATES	DEEP WATER FISH	***TUNA	****OTHER PELAGIC FISH	*****OTHER FISH	SHARKS
NATIONAL	80%	12%	4%	7%	3%	3%	2%	1%
URBAN	76%	3%	6%	9%	13%	6%	2%	2%
Port Vila	76%	4%	8%	10%	17%	8%	0%	2%
Luganville	76%	2%	0%	8%	4%	2%	9%	2%
RURAL	81%	13%	4%	7%	3%	3%	2%	1%
Torba	91%	13%	7%	7%	3%	1%	2%	2%
Sanma Rural	80%	10%	3%	5%	4%	3%	4%	0%
Penama	83%	9%	1%	5%	1%	4%	0%	1%
Malampa	78%	17%	4%	7%	4%	4%	0%	1%
Shefa Rural	78%	12%	7%	5%	3%	1%	1%	0%
Tafea	78%	17%	2%	18%	2%	7%	4%	0%

Includes * lobster, clam, crab, trochus ** octopus, squid, cockles, sea urchin *** Skipjack, Yellowfin ****Marlin, Mahi Mahi, Wahoo ***** Flying Fish, Sardine, Mangru

Reef fish dominate the catch in Vanuatu—four of five households, 80%, engaged in fishing activity reported reef fish as a main catch. Invertebrates, including lobster, clams, crabs, octopus and more, were the second most common catch in Vanuatu, with 16% of fishing households reporting invertebrates as a main catch. It is crucial that communities in Vanuatu sustainably manage fishing activities and look to maintain healthy reefs that, in turn, will provide food for families that depend on it now and in the future.

Hunting Activity

Hunting is much less common in Vanuatu. Still, in areas like rural Sanma where the bush offers an abundance of wild animals, 11% of households reported having members actively engaged in hunting activities. In rural Vanuatu, 6%, or 2,652 households, have members that are actively engaged in hunting.

Rural hunting methods vary depending on what is being hunted. More than half, 52%, of the households with members actively engaged in hunting in rural areas used a spear, knife or club for hunting. Less than 40% shot prey with a gun or a slingshot. Trapping and use of bows and arrows were reported by 10% or less of households actively engaged in hunting within the 7-day recall period.

More than half, 60%, of rural households actively engaged in hunting are bringing home wild pig or boar. More than one third, 36%, of rural households are bringing home wild birds. Less than 10% of households in rural areas actively engaged in hunting listed flying fox or wild cattle as a main catch.

Fishing and hunting, as with farming and tending livestock, are activities that display traditional knowledge in action and help put food on the table. Tracking this activity over time helps to monitor where in the country households are becoming more dependent on cash to provide food for their families.

Free Access to Traditional Wealth Items

Access to items of traditional wealth that hold social value is essential for participation in ceremonial activities that strengthen social networks through exchange. Ceremonial activity in Vanuatu builds and cements social relationships. The well-being pilot study, conducted in 2010, found that 92% of indigenous Ni-Vanuatu age 15 and higher believed it important to take part in customary ceremonial activities. For many, participation will frequently require access to items that hold traditional value in ceremonial exchange, including pigs (live or sacrificial pigs, pig skulls, and pig tusks), poultry, cattle, yams and other root crops, mats, and kava fuel the traditional economy in Vanuatu. These items are the “money” of the traditional economy. This section will look at demand for these items, as well as where they are sourced by households—through a cash transaction, through borrowing, or through home production.

Access to these traditional wealth items (TWIs) at the household level is as a measure of cultural vitality—reduced access to TWIs means reduced participation in traditional exchange activities and the associated ripple effects of disassociation with the culture group.

Figure 35 % Households requiring use of TWIs by area

	HOUSEHOLDS	BELOW AVG	ABOVE AVG	DIFFERENCE
NATIONAL	88%			
URBAN	84%			-4%
Port Vila	86%			1%
Luganville	80%			-6%
RURAL	89%			10%
Torba	85%			-4%
Sanma Rural	84%			-1%
Penama	98%			14%
Malampa	88%			-11%
Shefa Rural	91%			3%
Tafea	89%			-2%
SEX OF HH HEAD				
Male	89%			1%
Female	86%			-2%
AGE OF HH HEAD				
30 and under	86%			-2%

31-64	90%		2%	
65 & over	81%		-7%	
EDUCATION OF HH HEAD				
Class 8 and lower	89%		1%	
Class 9 and above	87%		-1%	
HH EXPENDITURE QUINTILE				
0% - 20%	87%		-1%	
20% - 40%	88%		0%	
40% - 60%	90%		2%	
60% - 80%	88%		0%	
80% - 100%	87%		-1%	

The vast majority of households in Vanuatu, 88%, required access to items of traditional wealth in the 12-month period preceding the interview. Penama Province had a far greater than average proportion of households, 98%, accessing TWIs in the same period. There is very little difference in the need to access TWIs among urban and rural households. Households requiring access to traditional wealth for use in customary exchanges is relatively uniform across demographic groups including across quintiles of average household expenditure. Demand for these items is constant in Vanuatu.

Table 5 % Households requiring TWIs by area

	PIGS	YAM, OTHER ROOT CROP	WOVEN MAT	KAVA	POULTRY (CHICKEN)	CATTLE
NATIONAL	22%	73%	52%	23%	23%	12%
URBAN	8%	71%	52%	9%	11%	6%
Port Vila	8%	75%	52%	8%	9%	4%
Luganville	9%	57%	53%	15%	17%	13%
RURAL	27%	74%	51%	27%	27%	14%
Torba	19%	66%	20%	37%	8%	5%
Sanma Rural	25%	70%	33%	19%	30%	17%
Penama	65%	70%	82%	65%	49%	38%
Malampa	14%	73%	43%	12%	29%	7%
Shefa Rural	14%	83%	60%	14%	12%	9%
Tafea	30%	75%	54%	34%	25%	9%

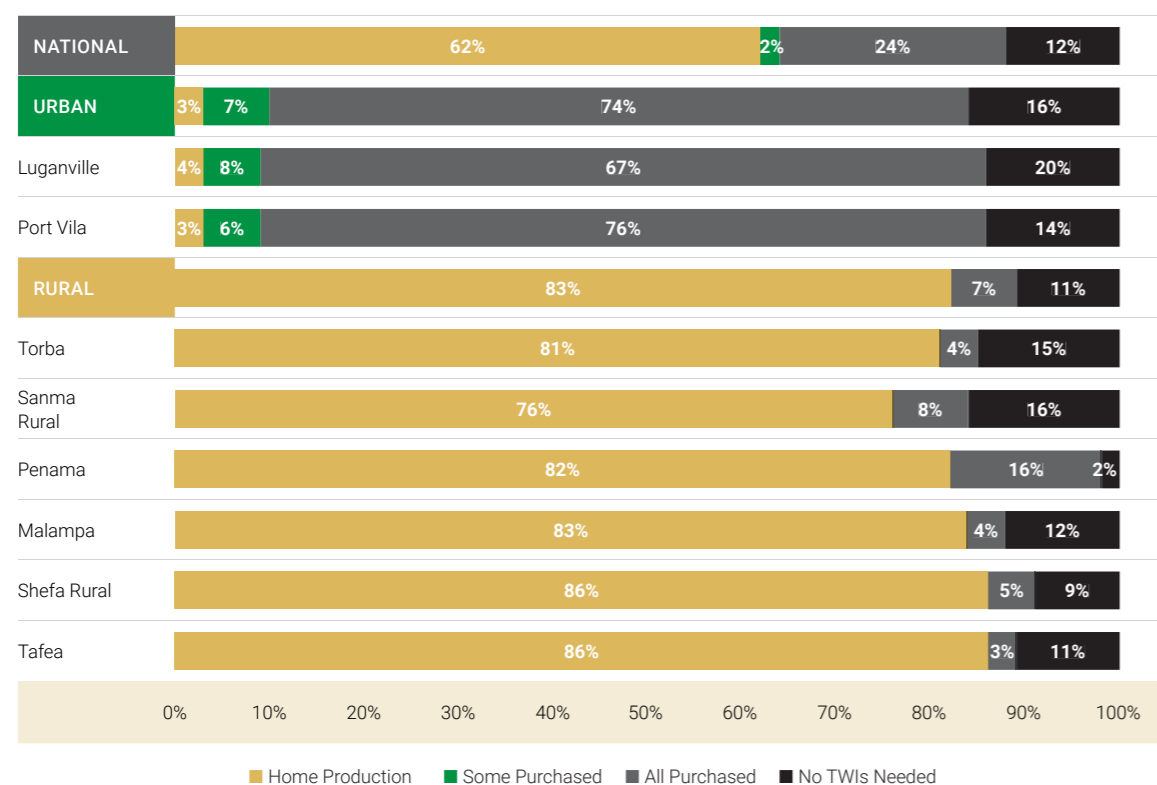
A vast majority, 73%, of households in Vanuatu reported the need to contribute yams and other crops such as taro that have traditional exchange value in the 12 months prior to being surveyed. Woven mats receive the second largest demand for participation in traditional ceremonial exchanges with just over half, 52%, of households requiring a woven mat at least once in the same period. Pigs are the most highly valued

animal used for customary exchange and, as such, are respected, well fed, groomed, and sometimes given names and spoken to by their owners. More than one in five households in Vanuatu needed pigs, poultry, and kava for use in traditional exchange, and 12% of households required cattle. These figures change from region to region depending on cultural norms and practices.

Penama Province had comparatively higher demand for nearly all items of traditional value. Most notably, 82% of households in Penama Province required woven mats for customary use in the 12 months prior to being surveyed, compared with the rural average of 51% of households requiring woven mats. Penama stands out here as the province with the highest demand of nearly all items of traditional wealth in Vanuatu.

Demand for at least some items of traditional exchange value is relatively constant across all regions and groups. Participation is driven by obligation and guided by customary rules of exchange. Those individuals living in urban centers are obligated to participate as part of the collective, and must therefore find a way to access these items in town.

Figure 36 Method of household access to TWIs by area



Overall, 62% of households reported producing their own items of traditional exchange value and 24% reported having used cash to purchase the items required of them. The urban and rural difference here is clear. Households in urban areas with less access to land and natural resources and are less able to produce traditional wealth items at home and are more likely going to have to spend money to access these items—74% of households in urban areas are purchasing all items of traditional exchange value in order to participate. Those living in rural areas, by contrast, are far more likely to produce the items they need at the household level and do not require money in order to participate in traditional ceremonial activities—83% of households in rural areas are home producing all items of traditional exchange value in order to participate.

Access to Employment and Income

The NSDP Baseline Survey collected information on employment, income and expenditure from households in Vanuatu. The data provides an estimated total working-age¹⁸ population in Vanuatu of 183,460 individuals representing 62% of the total population, of whom 92,177 are in the labor force. Half, 50%, of the working-age population is participating in the labor force. Labor force participation is higher in urban centers and in rural Shefa Province, and lowest in Tafea and Torba Provinces.

There is a disparity between the sexes and labor force participation, with a greater proportion of men and boys age 15 and over participating in the labor force than women and girls. The way in which the labor force is measured can have an effect on the extent to which men and women are included in labor force estimates. Since women, more so than men, are found in situations where they are in unpaid employment or work near or in their home, it is to be expected that the number of women in employment (and thus the female labor force) will be underestimated¹⁹. The Labor Market Monograph from the NSDP Baseline Survey explores this difference in detail.

Table 6 Industry of employment by area

	AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERY	INDUSTRY	SERVICES	OTHER
NATIONAL	37%	9%	49%	4%
Port Vila	4%	12%	81%	4%
Luganville	10%	15%	74%	1%
Torba	61%	8%	27%	3%
Sanma Rural	63%	3%	29%	5%
Penama	70%	6%	19%	6%
Malampa	72%	3%	22%	4%
Shefa Rural	36%	10%	48%	6%
Tafea	52%	11%	31%	6%

Nearly half, 49%, of all working-age employed individuals in Vanuatu are employed by the services industry, which includes wholesale and retail trade, hotels and accommodations, restaurants, food and beverage services, administrative and support services, public administration and defense, and education services. Most of this employment in services is in urban centers, while agriculture, forestry and fisheries is the main industry of employment in most rural areas. Manufacturing makes up 5% of total employment in Vanuatu. This indicator helps inform UN SDG 9.2 that seeks to promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances.

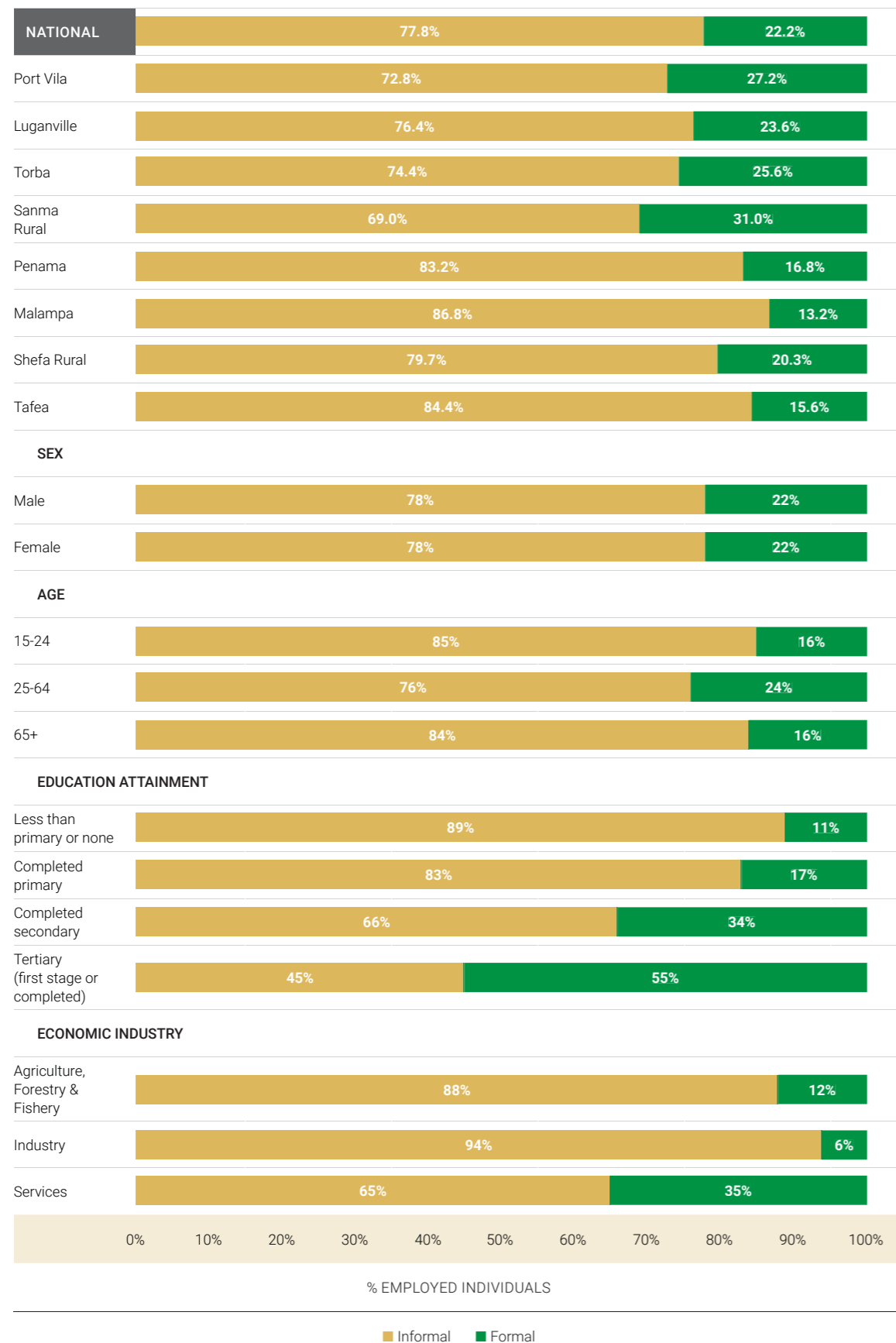
Informal employment is characterized as any job that is not subject to national labor laws and receives no social protections or entitlements to employment benefits. The 17th International Conference of Labor Statisticians established a framework for measuring informal employment, defining it as the total number of informal jobs, whether carried out in formal sector enterprises, informal sector enterprises, or households, during a given reference period²⁰. The informal employment rate is a key indicator highlighting the quality of employment in the economy of Vanuatu.

¹⁸ "Working-age" for purposes of the NSDP Baseline Survey is defined as all ages 15 and over

¹⁹ International Labor Office. (2016). KILM1: Labor force participation rate. In *Key Indicators of the Labor Market (KILM)*, Ninth edition. Geneva.

²⁰ International Labor Organization. (2003). Report of the Conference: Seventeenth International Conference of Labor Statisticians. Geneva.

Figure 37 Informal employment as share of total employment by area and group

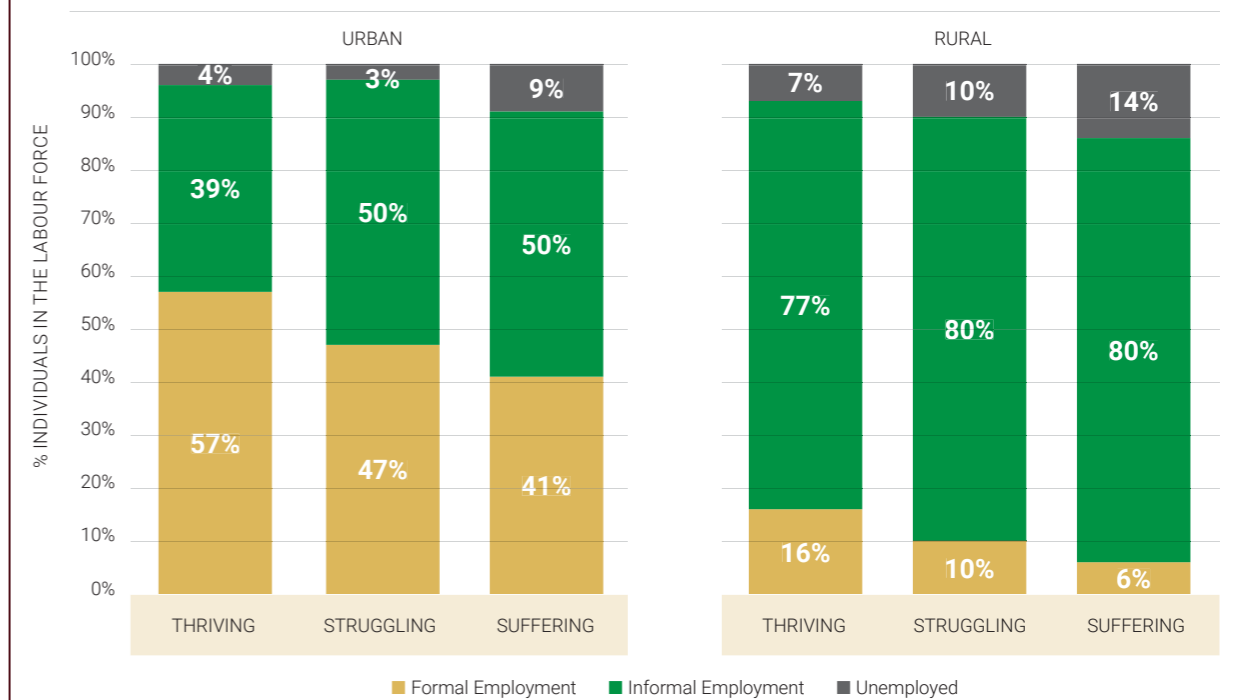


In total, 66,032 individuals are employed in the informal sector, representing more than three quarters, 78%, of the total employed population. The only group with a majority engaged in formal employment are those that have attained a level of post-secondary education. Employment in the services industry, dominant in urban centers, offers the most opportunities for formal employment in Vanuatu.

Unemployed persons refer to those of working age who are currently without work, currently available for work, and currently seeking work opportunities. Unemployment therefore excludes those enrolled in formal education, those that are retired, and those that may otherwise be unable to work²¹. The unemployment rate is a useful measure of the underutilization of the labor supply. It reflects the inability of an economy to generate employment for those persons who want to work but are not doing so, even though they are available for employment and actively seeking work. The unemployment rate is an important indicator of the efficiency and effectiveness of an economy to absorb its labor force as well as an indicator of the performance of the labor market.

The unemployment rate is 8% in Vanuatu for ages 15 and over. Unemployment is lower in urban centers and highest in rural Sanma and rural Shefa Provinces. Unemployment is higher among females ages 15 and higher, and unemployment is highest among youth ages 15 to 24.

Figure 38 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering by employment status, urban and rural



When removing students, elderly, disabled, and others outside the labor force, there is a clear relationship between employment and well-being. Thriving individuals in the labor force in Vanuatu are more likely to be employed. Formal employment is a characteristic of over half, 57%, of individuals in the labor force and thriving in urban centers. Unemployed individuals are less likely to be thriving. These relationships are true in both urban and rural areas. Working for what you have is a cultural value as well and hard-working individuals are respected in their communities. Working and being productive is an important contributing factor for the well-being of ni-Vanuatu.

Wages and salaries comprise more than 40% of household income in Vanuatu. Nearly two-thirds, 63%, of average urban household income is coming through wages and salaries, whereas 65% of average rural household income comes through home consumption.

²¹ International Labor Organization. "Indicator description: Unemployment rate." www.ilo.org/ilostat/ilstat/ilo.org/resources/concepts-and-definitions/description-unemployment-rate

Average monthly income value of home consumption helps track progress against UN SDG 2.3. This SDG seeks to double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.

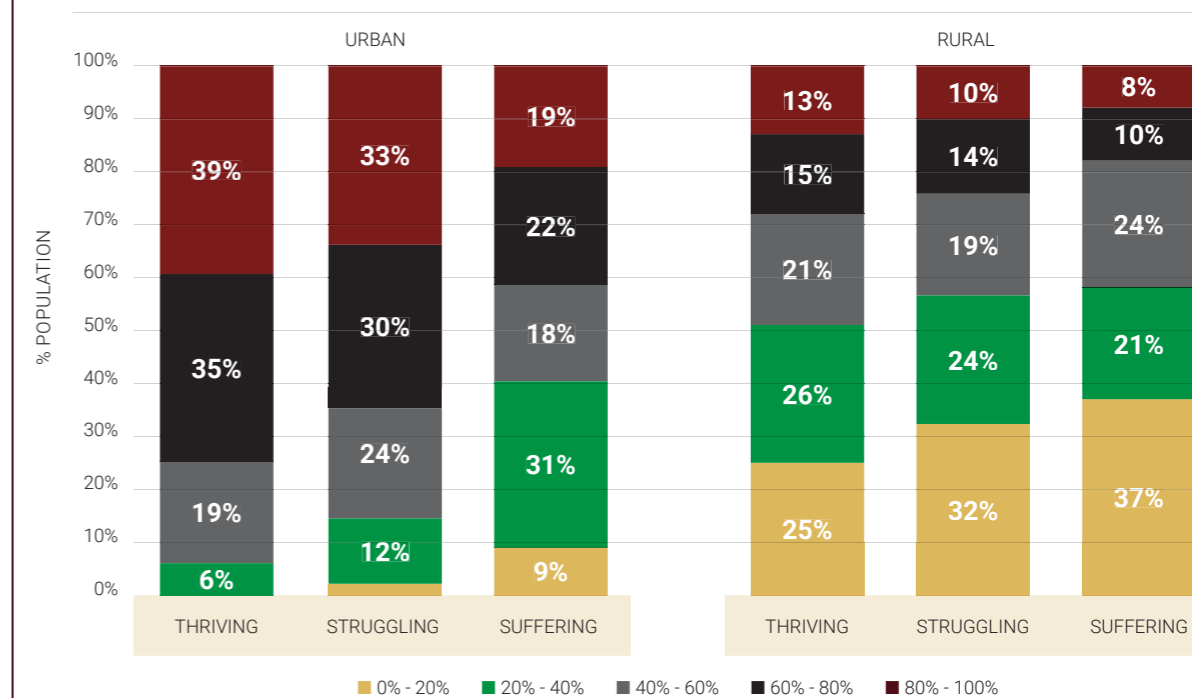
Figure 39 Average monthly household income value of home consumption by area and group, Vatu

	VATU
NATIONAL	17,275
URBAN	5,144
Port Vila	5,128
Luganville	5,198
RURAL	21,454
Torba	20,325
Sanma Rural	20,553
Penama	31,397
Malampa	19,963
Shefa Rural	19,436
Tafea	17,969
SEX OF HH HEAD	
Male	19,378
Female	13,698
AGE OF HH HEAD	
30 and under	16,145
31-64	18,048
65 and over	14,793
EDUCATION OF HH HEAD	
Primary or less	19,695
Jr Secondary or more	13,049
HH EXPENDITURE QUINTILE	
0% - 20%	16,036
20% - 40%	20,629
40% - 60%	19,592
60% - 80%	16,611
80% - 100%	13,507

The bulk of home consumption value of home production is recorded among rural households. Rural households consume, on average, VT 21,454 worth of home-produced goods each month, compared with an average of VT 5,144 among urban households.

Home production for home consumption is a measure of economic self-reliance. The data from the NSDP Baseline Survey show higher levels of economic self-reliance in rural areas and among households headed by men, households headed by those with a primary school formal education or lower, and among households in the bottom 20%-60% of average expenditure. These are households more likely to have access to, and be productive on, indigenous lands. Households in the lowest expenditure quintile are likely not as productive as those that have more money to spend on seeds, planting materials, and specialized equipment.

Figure 40 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and Per-Capita Expenditure Quintile, urban and rural areas



Individuals in the highest average per-capita household expenditure quintile are more likely to be thriving in both urban and rural areas, although the amount of consumption is less determinative of well-being in rural areas. The consumption distribution of thriving individuals in urban centers skews toward higher expenditure quintiles where nearly three out of four people, 74%, are in the highest 40% of per-capita expenditure. In rural areas, by contrast, the consumption distribution of thriving individuals skews toward lower expenditure quintiles. Only 4% of individuals in the bottom 40% of average per-capita household expenditure are considered to be thriving in urban centers, compared with 51% of individuals in the bottom 40% of average per-capita household expenditure thriving in rural areas.

These results illustrate a core difference in well-being conditions required for thriving in rural areas in Vanuatu. Money is a driver of happiness primarily in urban centers where people depend on access to money for basic needs like food and housing. Individuals with little monetary resources in rural areas are still afforded an opportunity to thrive on their indigenous lands. Recent research in Solomon Islands and Bangladesh fishing communities suggest that high levels of SWB are possible in places that are less monetized. The findings challenge the perception that economic growth is the only way, or the best way, to raise life satisfaction among populations with less income²².

²² Miñarro S, Reyes-García V, Aswani S, Selim S, Barrington-Leigh CP, Galbraith ED (2021) Happy without money: Minimally monetized societies can exhibit high subjective well-being. PLoS ONE 16(1): e0244569.

Average monthly income value of home consumption helps track progress against UN SDG 2.3. This SDG seeks to double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment. Household production is the production of goods and services by the members of a household, for their own consumption, using their own capital and their own unpaid labor²³.

The Household Income and Expenditure Analysis Report, based on data from the 2019-2020 NSDP Baseline Survey, gives a detailed analysis of household income and expenditure in Vanuatu.

Access to Financial Services

Access to financial services through banks, credit unions, microfinance and mobile money service is important for all people in Vanuatu. Financial services provide both opportunities for income generation as well as security of income earned. While these services exist in Vanuatu, access is variable from location to location and many individuals do not use financial services that are available to them.

Table 7 Access to financial services by area and group

	BANK ACCOUNT	MOBILE MONEY ACCOUNT	CREDIT UNION ACCOUNT	MICROFINANCE ACCOUNT
NATIONAL	36%	1%	1%	2%
URBAN	58%	2%	2%	3%
Port Vila	60%	1%	0%	2%
Luganville	50%	4%	11%	8%
RURAL	27%	0%	1%	1%
Torba	23%	1%	1%	1%
Sanma Rural	21%	0%	1%	0%
Penama	26%	1%	1%	1%
Malampa	28%	0%	0%	1%
Shefa Rural	41%	0%	0%	3%
Tafea	16%	0%	0%	1%
SEX OF HH HEAD				
Male	43%	1%	1%	1%
Female	29%	1%	1%	3%
AGE OF HH HEAD				
15-30	26%	0%	1%	1%
31-64	48%	1%	2%	3%
65 and over	27%	0%	1%	1%
MARITAL STATUS OF HH HEAD (15+)				
Never married	21%	0%	0%	1%
Married	41%	1%	1%	2%
De facto	50%	1%	2%	3%
Divorced/separated	56%	1%	1%	4%

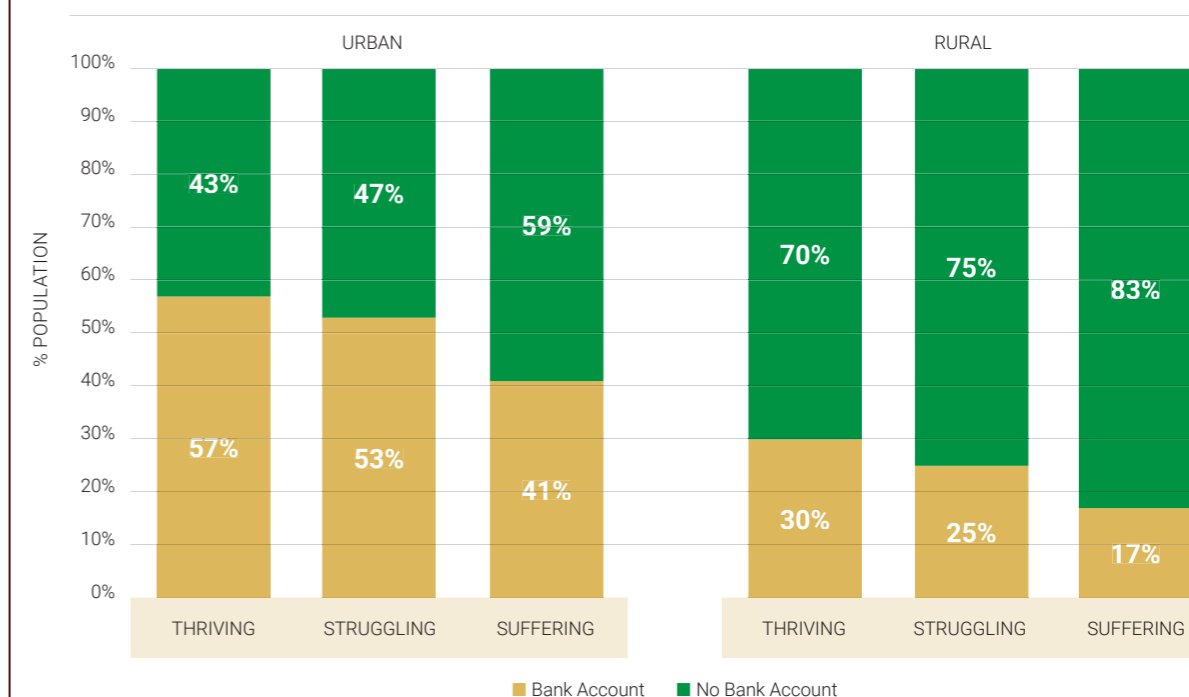
23 D. Ironmonger. (2001). Household Production. In N.J. Smelser, P.B. Baltes (Eds.), *International Encyclopedia of the Social & Behavioral Sciences*. Elsevier, Ltd.

Widowed	24%	0%	2%	3%
EDUCATION LEVEL COMPLETED (15+)				
None or kindy	9%	0%	1%	1%
Primary through Class 6	25%	0%	1%	2%
Primary through Class 8	27%	0%	1%	2%
Jr Secondary	42%	1%	1%	2%
Sr Secondary	55%	1%	2%	2%
Post Secondary, University	77%	3%	1%	1%

Bank checking and savings accounts are the most commonly accessed financial services in Vanuatu, more so in urban centers than in rural areas. More than half, 58%, of people aged 15 and over living in urban centers have at least one bank account, compared with 27% of people living in rural areas. Luganville residents are accessing financial services through credit unions, microfinance programs and mobile money banking more than are individuals in any other part of the country. Men and boys age 15 and over were more likely to have access to financial services than women and girls. Those that completed higher levels of formal education were also more likely to have access to financial services. Bank accounts are the most common form of financial services that people access. One out of every 10 bank account holders in Vanuatu accesses their account less than once per month. Infrequent use of bank accounts is most prominent among bank account holders in Penama Province where 37% access their bank accounts less than once per month.

Half, 50%, of all households in rural areas have no members with an active bank account, compared with less than 10% of households in urban centers. A majority of urban households had two or more members with an active bank account. Households in Tafea were least likely to have a member with a bank account. Households headed by men are less likely to have members with at least one bank account than are households headed by women.

Figure 41 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and bank account status, urban and rural



Thriving individuals in Vanuatu are more likely to have a bank account in both urban and rural areas. Access to financial services is beneficial to well-being in all settings. Continued improvements in access to financial services, along with improvements in employment opportunities, are important for maintaining and improving life satisfaction in all areas of Vanuatu.

Access to Services and Infrastructure

All ni-Vanuatu benefit from services provided by their family, their community, the private sector or the government in ways that improve the quality of their lives. The existing infrastructure of services, from nakamals to aid posts and from the schoolhouses to the mobile towers, is meant to provide or improve access to essential services. This section looks closer at access to services as well as the quality of access and its relationship to well-being.

Additional information on access to services and infrastructure is provided in the Household Income and Expenditure Analysis Report using data collected in the NSDP Baseline Survey. For this publication, the relationship between access to basic services and infrastructure and well-being is explained.

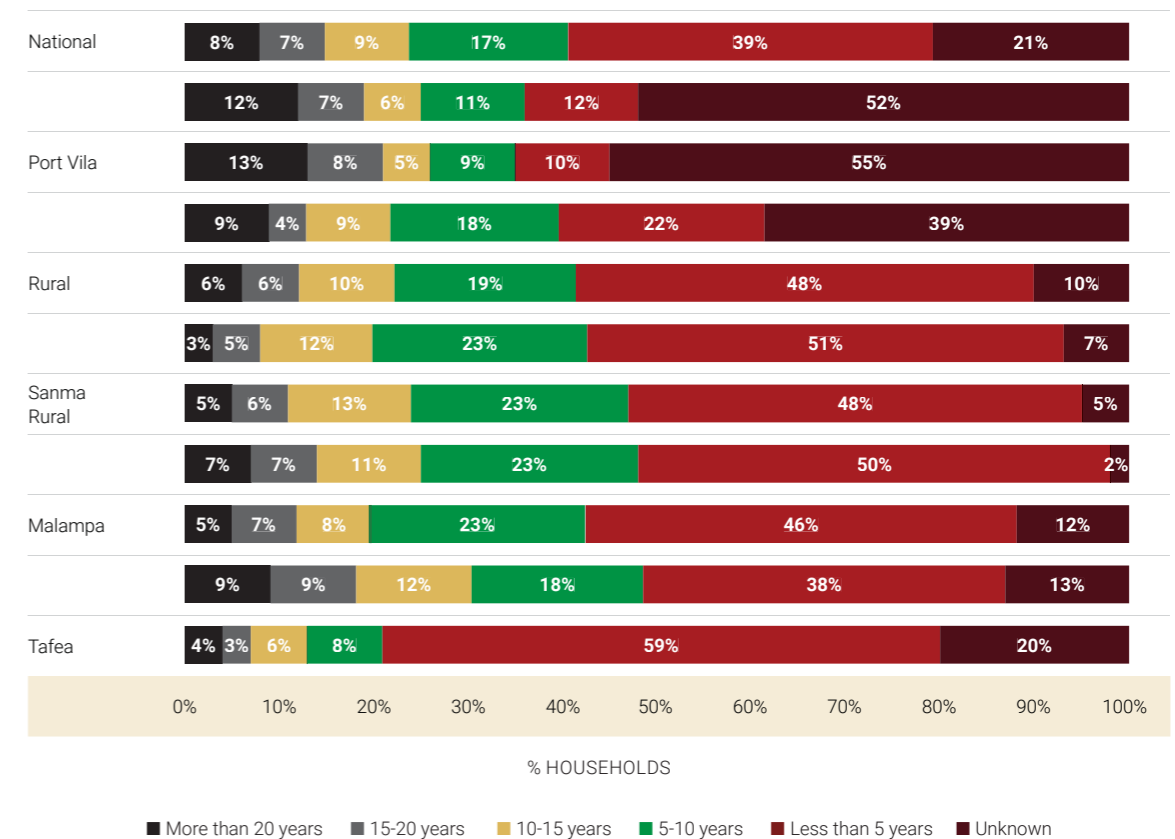
Housing Infrastructure

Access to adequate housing is a basic human right and an integral factor for the enjoyment of other economic, social and cultural rights. According to the United Nations (UN) Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, satisfactory housing consists of legal security of tenure; availability of accessible services, facilities and infrastructure; habitability; accessibility (e.g. access to employment, health services, schools, etc.); “cultural adequacy”; and affordability²⁴.

A large majority, 91%, of households with accessible indigenous customary lands, or 48,316 households, use their lands for housing in Vanuatu, detailed in Chapter 2. Either these households live in housing located on their lands, or others live in housing constructed on their lands. This illustrates how access to indigenous land supports housing land tenure and enables the vast majority of housing to be located on lands that are not taxed by the government. Housing provides shelter and safety for the people of Vanuatu, a country that is proud to boast islands largely free from homelessness.

Most households in Vanuatu, 81%, reside in housing that is not connected to other houses or businesses. Nearly one in three households in urban areas, 31%, reside in housing units attached to one or more other units, or they live in apartment buildings.

Figure 42 Housing age by area



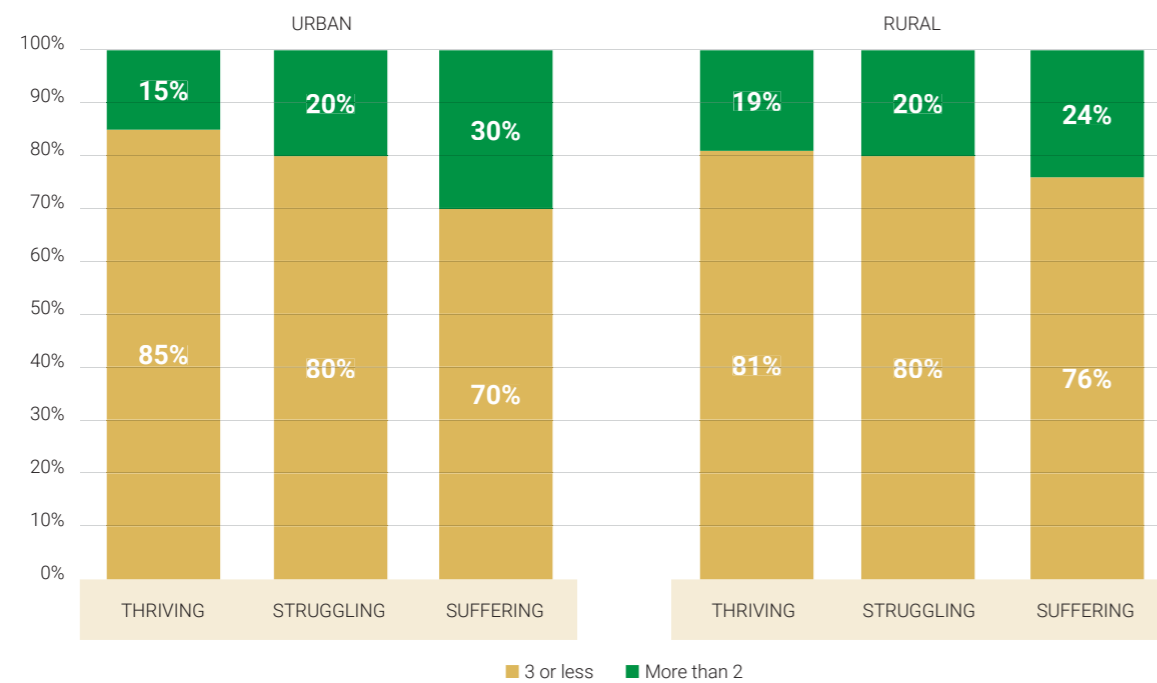
*Housing more than 20 years old was built before 1999. Housing less than five years old was built after 2015.

Housing infrastructure in Vanuatu is relatively young, with a majority of households, 56%, living in housing 10 years old or less. Rural housing is younger still, with nearly half of households in rural areas, 48%, living in housing that is five years old or less. The younger infrastructure is a feature of housing in Vanuatu that has depended traditionally on replenishing natural resources used for constructing dwellings, kitchens, and meeting houses. Young housing infrastructure is also a result of severe natural disasters that damage and destroy homes, requiring the re-building of structures that do not hold up.

The average household size in Vanuatu is roughly five members sharing, on average, two and a half rooms in the main dwelling for sleeping and general living space. The United Nations considers “adequate housing” to be, among other criteria, a dwelling unit that provides sufficient living area for the household members, if not more than three people, sharing the same habitable room. Greater than three members sharing a room in a dwelling is considered “overcrowding” and has been linked with poor health outcomes for the household.

²⁴ United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment n°4: The right to adequate housing (art. 11 (1) of the Covenant). Sixth session, 1991.

Figure 43 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and housing space, urban and rural



Individuals living in “overcrowded” housing in Vanuatu are less likely to be thriving. This relationship is stronger in urban areas than in rural—a 15% difference among thriving and suffering in urban centers, compared to a 5% difference among thriving and suffering individuals in rural areas. It is important that housing opportunities offer enough space for people to thrive, particularly in urban areas.

Figure 44 % Households using local materials for both roofing and walls by area

Category	Percentage	Households
NATIONAL	34%	34%
URBAN	2%	2%
Port Vila	0%	0%
Luganville	8%	8%
RURAL	45%	45%
Torba	74%	74%
Sanma Rural	54%	54%
Penama	63%	63%
Malampa	60%	60%
Shefa Rural	6%	6%
Tafea	38%	38%
SEX OF HH HEAD		
Male	41%	41%
Female	21%	21%
AGE OF HH HEAD		

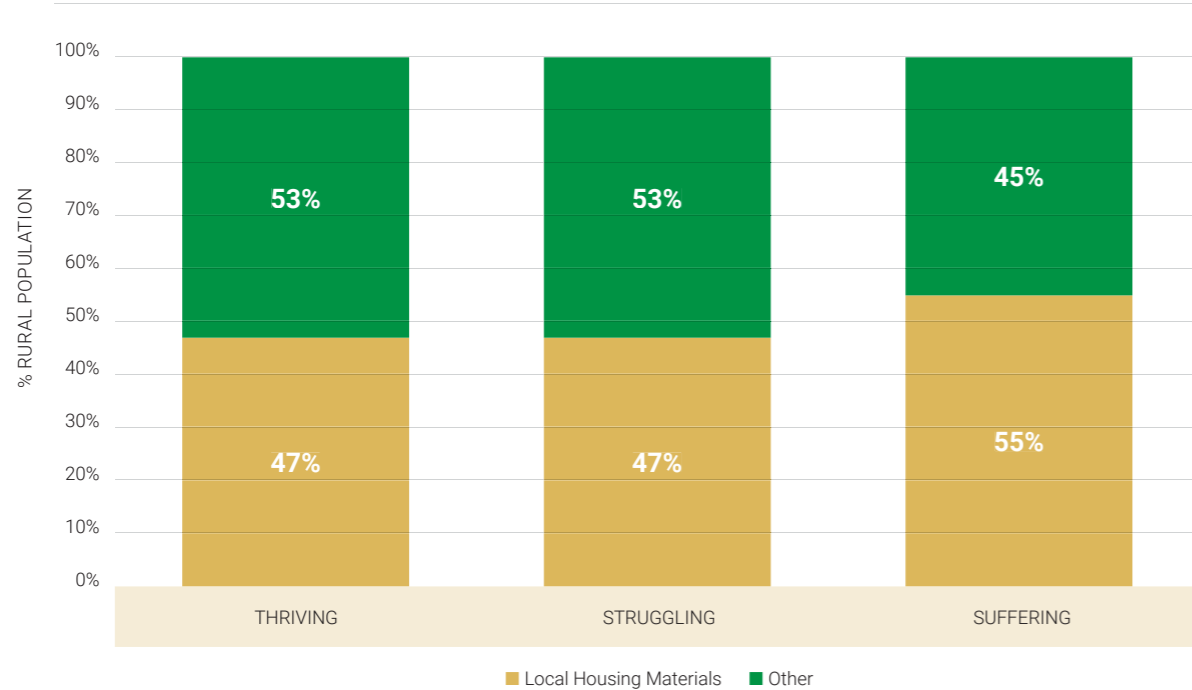
30 and under	36%
31-64	32%
65 and over	38%
EDUCATION OF HH HEAD	
Class 8 or less	42%
Class 9 or above	19%
HH EXPENDITURE QUINTILE	
0% - 20%	61%
20% - 40%	49%
40% - 60%	34%
60% - 80%	22%
80% - 100%	14%

The proportion of housing that uses renewable natural resources for both roofing (thatch Natangura or other local material) and walls (bamboo, wild cane, and timber) is just over one-third, 34%, nationwide, and nearly half, 45%, in rural areas. Rural Shefa Province is the exception to the rule, with only 6% of housing constructed using local materials for both the walls and roofing. Households residing closer to urban centers were more likely to live in housing constructed with materials that were not sourced from the surrounding environment.

There is a disparity between the sexes and housing materials—41% of all households headed by men live in housing built with local materials for walls and roofing, compared with just half that, 21%, of households headed by women. The same disparity is true for education and income. Households headed by individuals that attained lower levels of formal education were more than twice as likely to live in housing constructed with local materials. As income relates to education, we find households in the lowest income quintile more than three times more likely to live in locally resourced housing. These trends are interlinked. People that are more successful with their formal education are more likely to live in urban areas where they tend to earn more. At the same time, educated ni-Vanuatu living in town have less direct access to natural resources and as a result are less likely to live in housing built with local materials.

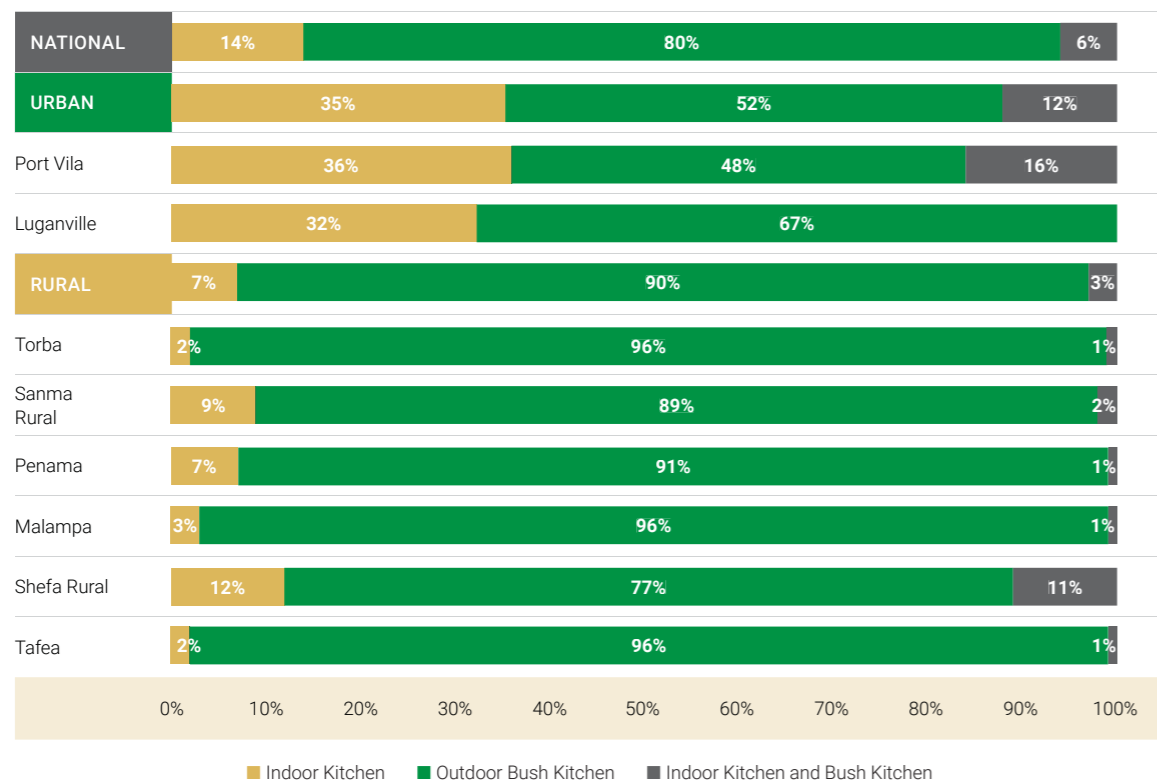


Figure 45 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and housing materials – rural areas



Living in a house built primarily from local materials does not hinder one's ability to thrive in rural areas. People that live in housing constructed with local materials have a nearly equal opportunity to thrive as those that live in housing constructed with concrete, corrugated iron, or other purchased material, and in that sense *local housing is no better or worse than other forms of housing as a determining factor of well-being*.

Figure 46 % Households by kitchen type used for meal preparation



Kitchens play a key role in Vanuatu households. The kitchen is where families spend quality time, meals are produced, and foodstuffs are stored. Households are defined for the NSDP Baseline Survey as, "those persons who usually eat together and share the work of preparing the food and/or the cost of work for providing it". An easier way to determine a household using this definition is all people sharing a kitchen. The vast majority of households in Vanuatu, 80%, use an outdoor bush kitchen for preparing meals. Over a third of households in urban areas, 35%, use an indoor kitchen for cooking. The ability to cook and prepare foods in both indoor and outdoor kitchens is predominantly in urban areas with the exception of rural Shefa where proximity to Port Vila and good roads provides access to alternative cooking fuels. There is a preference for maintaining a bush kitchen even among households that can afford to cook with gas or electricity. Most people have a cultural preference for foods cooked over an open flame or in an earthen oven.

Water and Sanitation Infrastructure

The United Nations General Assembly formally recognized the human right to water and sanitation in 2010 and acknowledged that clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to the realization of all human rights²⁵. This section will focus on how access to improved water and sanitation facilities influences well-being in Vanuatu. More information on water and sanitation from the NSDP Baseline Survey is made available in the Household Income and Expenditure Analysis Report.

An improved drinking water source is a facility that, by nature of its construction, is protected from outside contamination in particular from contamination with fecal matter. Improved drinking water sources include piped water into dwelling, plot or yard; public tap/standpipe; borehole/tube well; protected dug well; protected spring; rainwater collection and bottled water. Users of bottled water are considered to have access to improved sources only when they have a secondary source which is of an otherwise improved type. Improved drinking water sources do not include unprotected wells, unprotected springs, water provided by carts with small tanks/drums, tanker truck-provided water and bottled water (if the secondary source is not improved) or surface water taken directly from rivers, ponds, streams, lakes, dams, or irrigation channels²⁶.

Use of an *improved drinking water source* is a component for measuring access to safe drinking water. Improved drinking water sources are more likely to be protected from external contaminants than unimproved sources either by intervention or through their design and construction. Greater access to improved drinking water sources is important as it contributes to lowering the incidence of many diseases.

The NSDP Baseline Survey obtained information on the main and secondary sources of drinking water for households in Vanuatu, along with cooking water and cleaning water sources. Households in rural areas have more sources listed as main sources of drinking water than do their urban counterparts. Less than one-in-four households, 21%, reported their main source of drinking water to be from a public or shared tap or standpipe. Over one third, 36%, of urban households have their main source of drinking water piped inside their house, compared with just 3% of those in rural areas.

²⁵ United Nations General Assembly. (2010). Resolution A/RES/64/292

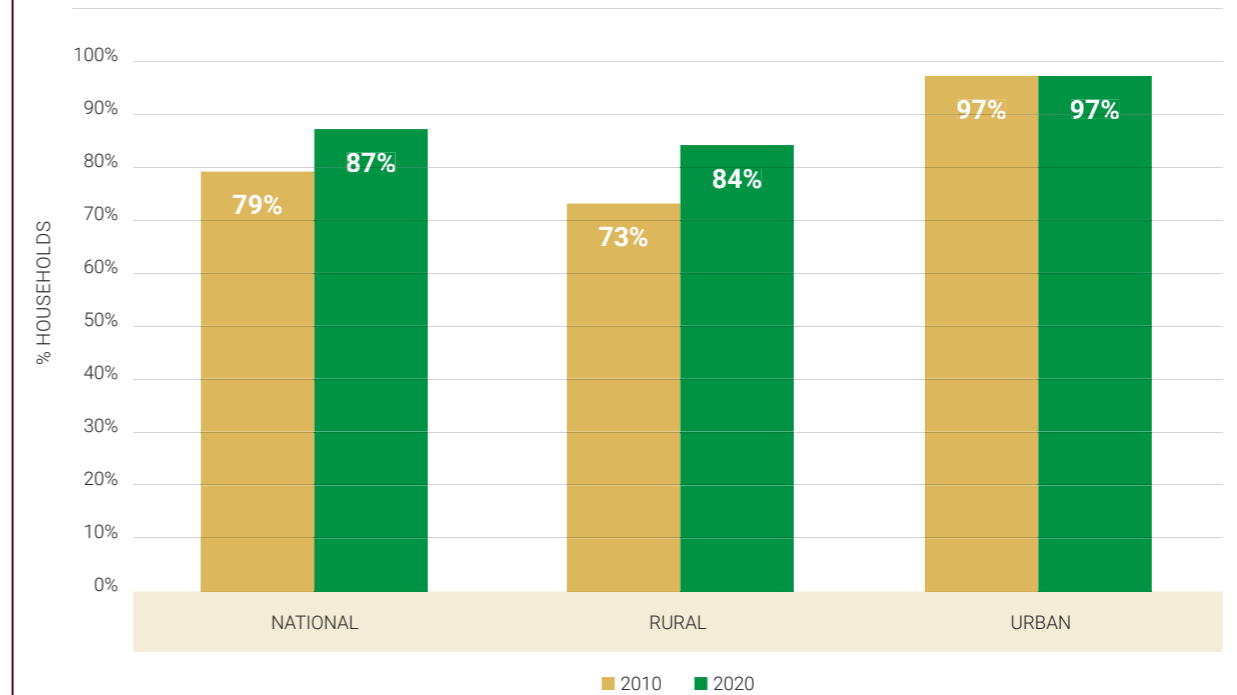
²⁶ World Health Organization. (2017). Guidelines for drinking-water quality: fourth edition incorporating the first addendum. ISBN 978-92-4-154995-0

Figure 47 % Households with improved main source of drinking water by area

	HOUSEHOLDS
NATIONAL	87%
URBAN	97%
Port Vila	97%
Luganville	96%
RURAL	84%
Torba	89%
Sanma Rural	79%
Penama	88%
Malampa	83%
Shefa Rural	91%
Tafea	76%
SEX OF HH HEAD	
Male	85%
Female	91%
AGE OF HH HEAD	
30 and under	88%
31-64	87%
65 and over	84%
EDUCATION OF HH HEAD	
Class 8 or less	84%
Class 9 or above	93%
HH EXPENDITURE QUINTILE	
0% - 20%	78%
20% - 40%	84%
40% - 60%	87%
60% - 80%	90%
80% - 100%	94%

A majority of households, 87%, use an improved main source of drinking water. Urban households are more likely to have an improved main source of drinking water than are households in rural areas. More than 20% of households in both Tafea Province and rural Sanma Province do not have access to an improved main source of drinking water. Households headed by men are less likely to have an improved main source of drinking water than are households with women as the head. Younger household heads and households headed by individuals that attained higher levels of formal education were more likely to have an improved main source of drinking water. The proportion of households with improved main sources of drinking water climbs steadily with household income—there is a 16% difference in access to improved drinking water between households in the bottom and top expenditure quintiles.

Figure 48 Change in access to improved drinking water since 2010



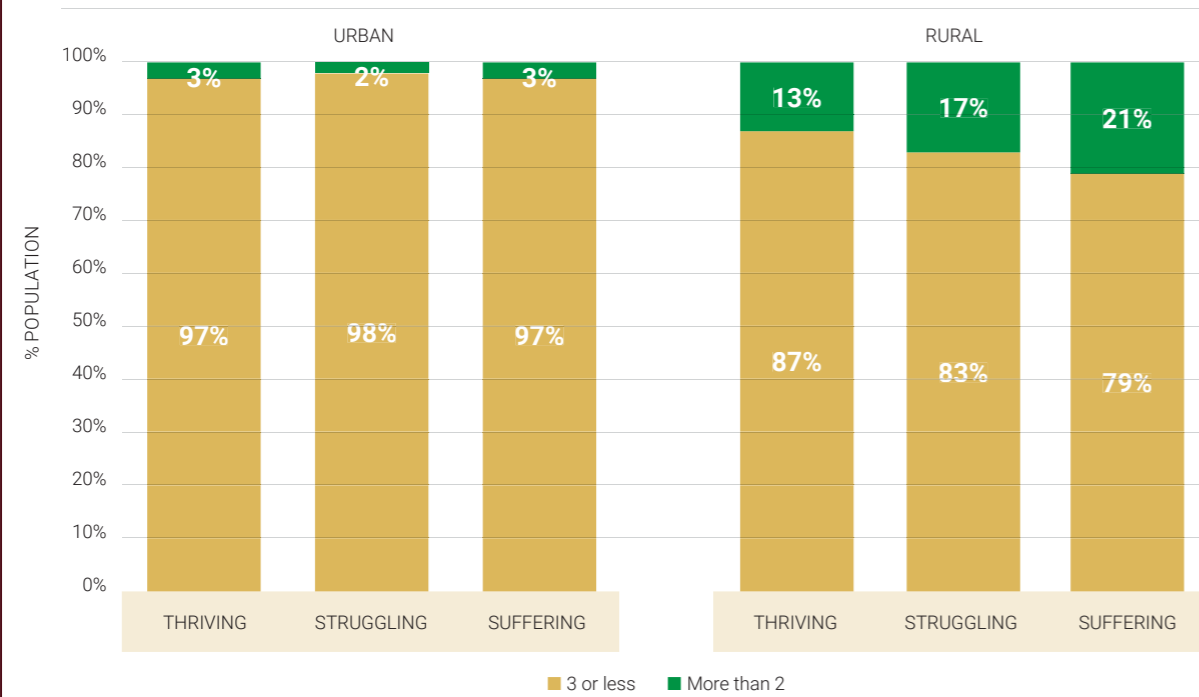
Comparison of the NSDP Baseline Survey data from 2020 and the 2010 Household Income and Expenditure Survey shows an improvement in access to improved drinking water over the ten-year period. Overall, 8% more households have access to improved drinking water now than ten years ago. This appears to be driven by improvements to access in rural areas, where 11% more households have access to improved main sources of drinking water than in 2010.

Nearly one third, 32%, of households in Vanuatu have an improved secondary source of drinking water. Households in rural Sanma and Penama Province were more likely to have a secondary source of drinking water, however, a higher proportion of households in Penama reported secondary sources that are not considered to be “improved”. More than half, 51%, of all households in Vanuatu have no secondary source of drinking water.

About four out of five households in Vanuatu cook with the same water they use for drinking. The proportion drops to 72% of all households in Vanuatu that do their washing with the same water they use for drinking. Luganville stands out as having a greater proportion of households using alternative sources other than their main sources of drinking water for cooking and cleaning.



Figure 49 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and access to improved drinking water sources, urban and rural

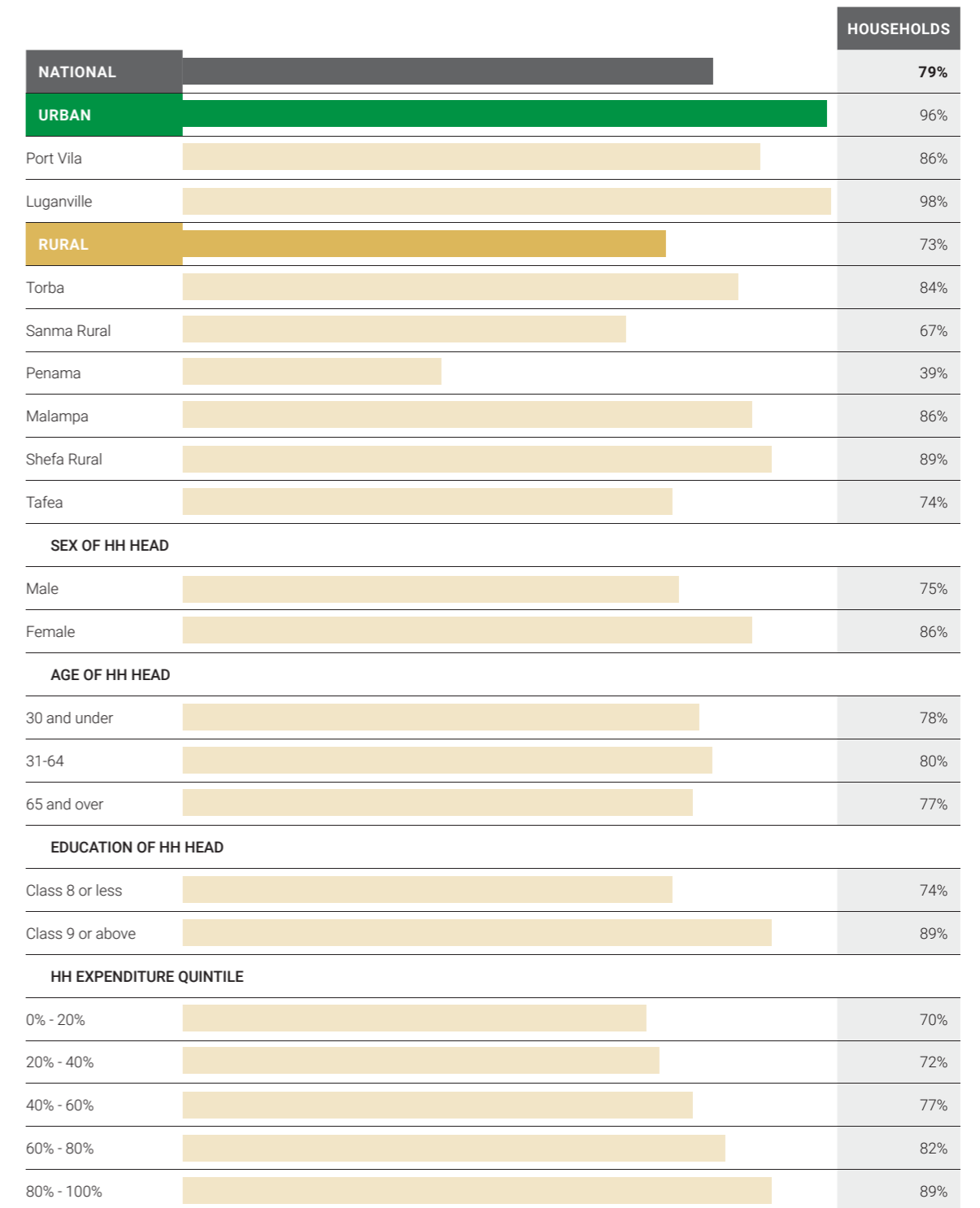


Access to improved drinking water has been stable in urban areas over the past decade, which may explain why there is no discernable well-being effect in urban areas. Improvements in access to improved drinking water sources in rural areas over the last ten years has had a well-being effect—thriving individuals are more likely to have access to improved drinking water than those that are suffering in rural areas. The rural experience shows that access to improved drinking water is a contributing factor to well-being in Vanuatu.

The NSDP Baseline Survey obtained information on the main toilet facility used by households in Vanuatu. An *improved sanitation facility* is defined as a facility that hygienically separates human excreta from human, animal and insect contact. *Improved sanitation facilities* include flush/pour-flush toilets or latrines connected to a sewer, septic tank or pit; ventilated improved pit latrines; pit latrines with a slab or platform of any material which covers the pit entirely, except for the drop hole; and composting toilets/latrines. *Unimproved facilities* include public or shared facilities of an otherwise improved type; flush/pour-flush toilets that discharge directly into an open sewer or ditch or elsewhere; pit latrines without a slab; bucket latrines; hanging toilets or latrines; and the practice of open defecation in the bush, field or bodies of water²⁷.

Flush toilets are more common in urban areas where 85% of households use a flush toilet of some kind. Rural households feature a greater diversity in toilet facilities. In some areas, there is a greater attention to sanitation where we find a greater proportion of households using improved toilet facilities.

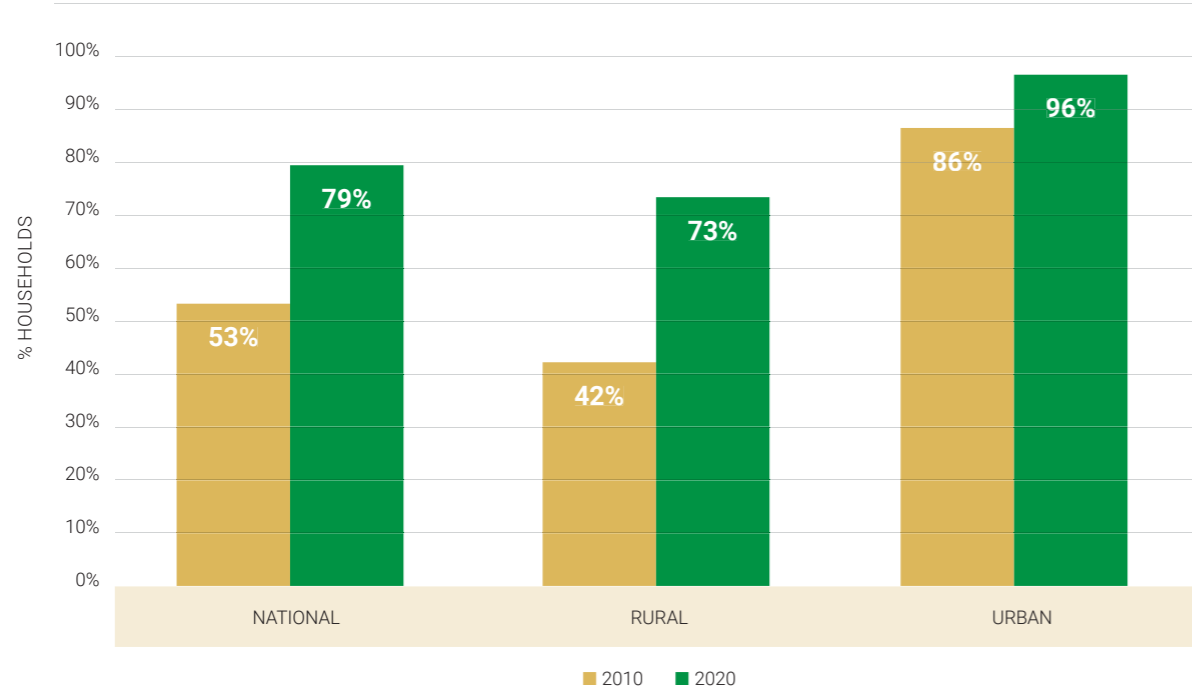
Figure 50 % Households with improved toilets by area and group



About four out of five households in Vanuatu, 79%, use improved toilet facilities. Some areas of rural Vanuatu, particularly in Penama, rural Sanma and Tafea Provinces, should continue to improve the standards of household sanitation for improved health outcomes. There is a 19% difference in access to improved sanitation facilities between households in the lowest and highest expenditure quintiles. Opportunities for improved sanitation must be made available to those that cannot afford to invest in proper facilities. There is also a disparity between the sexes with improved sanitation. A greater proportion of households headed by women, 86%, were using improved toilets as compared to just 75% of households headed by men.

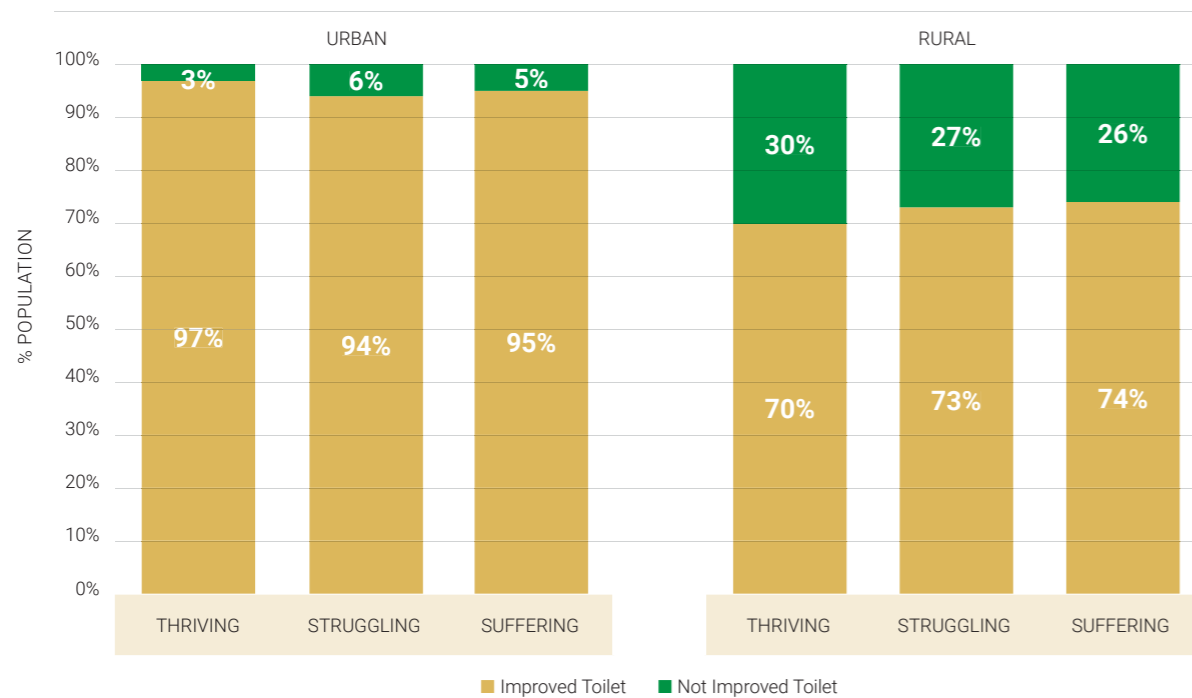
²⁷ World Health Organization. (2018). Guidelines on sanitation and health. ISBN 978-92-4-151470-5

Figure 51 Change in access to improved toilet facilities since 2010



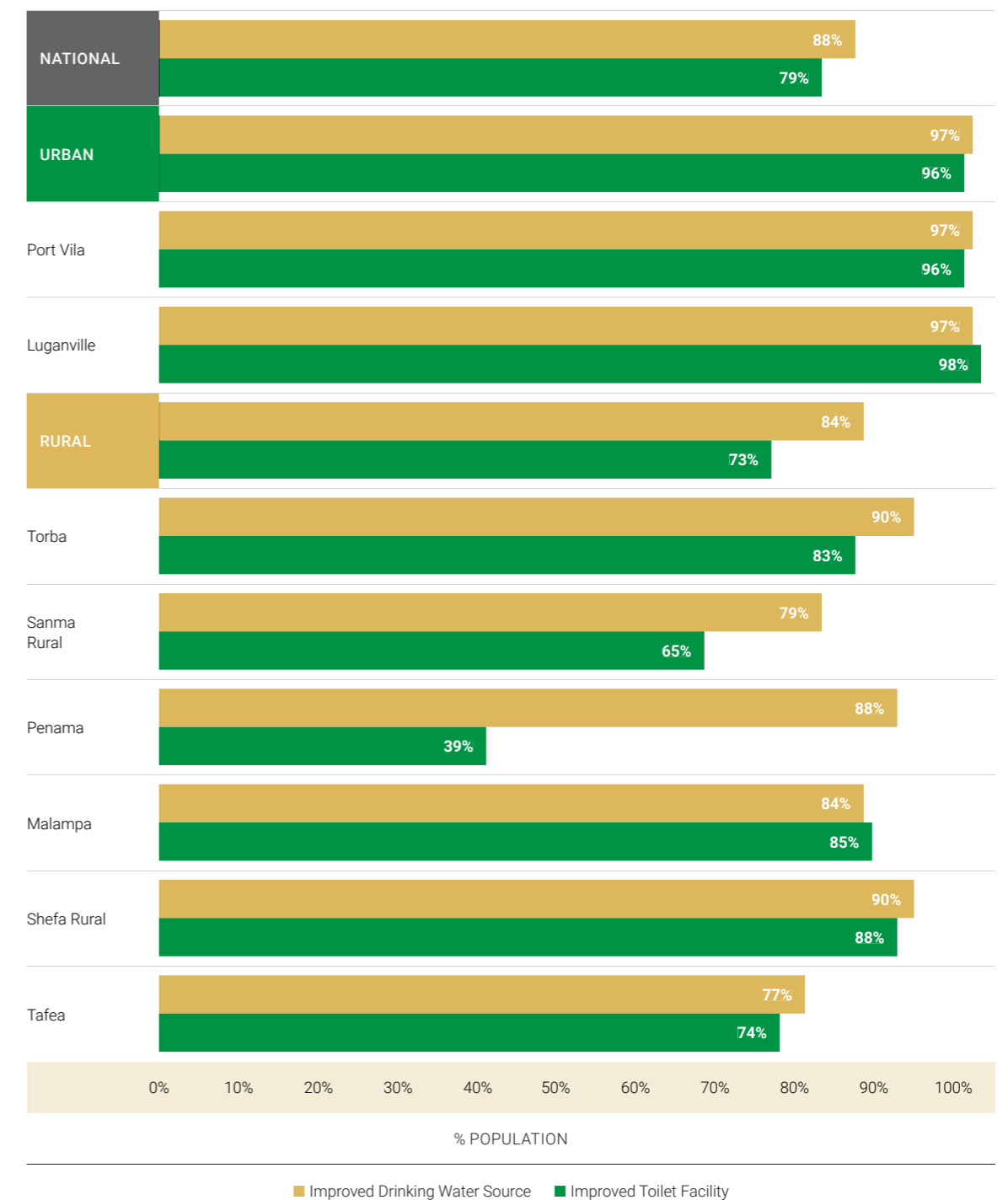
A comparison of findings from the NSDP Baseline Survey and the 2010 HIES shows an increase in access to improved sanitation facilities over the ten year period. Overall, 26% more households in 2020 had access to improved toilet facilities than in 2010. Much of this increase was in rural areas where 31% more households in 2020 had access to improved toilet facilities than in 2010. Improvements in urban sanitation is an achievement that should also be celebrated.

Figure 52 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and access to improved sanitation



Access to improved toilets does not have a discernable impact on well-being in urban or rural areas, despite the research that points to improved health outcomes for those with access to improved sanitation facilities. This may mean that improvements in toilet infrastructure, particularly in rural areas, no longer contribute to improving quality of life. It may also mean that the definition of “improved toilet” needs to change in order to reflect Vanuatu’s sanitation context, particularly in rural areas.

Figure 53 % Population with improved WASH access by area



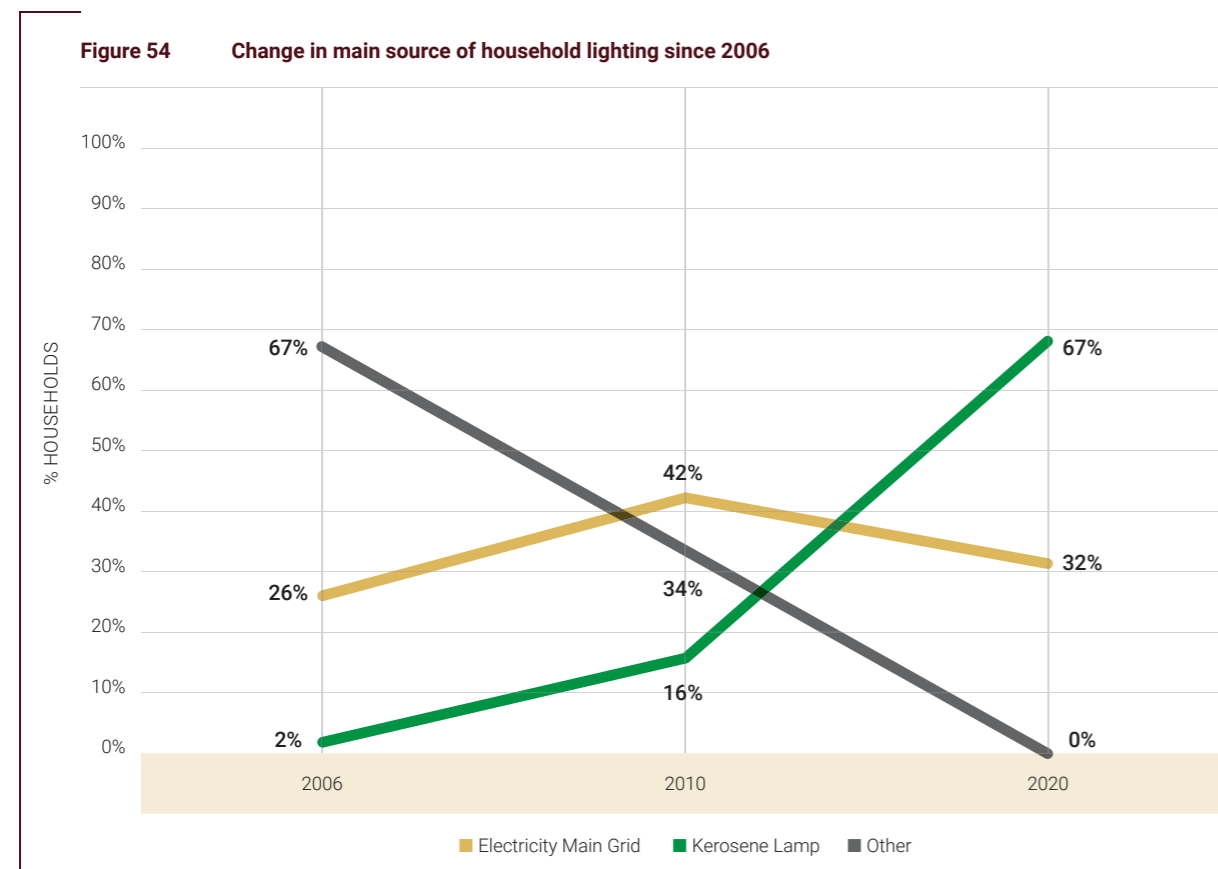
An estimated 258,947 people, or 88% of the population of Vanuatu, has access to at least one improved source of drinking water. An estimated 232,638 people, or 79% of the population of Vanuatu, has access to improved toilet facilities. A greater proportion with access live in urban centers. Continued improvements in the access and quality of drinking water and sanitation facilities in rural areas will have positive health and well-being effects.

Energy Infrastructure and Services

Energy shines light into the darkness, powers our devices, and cooks our food. The need to access reliable and affordable energy sources is essential in Vanuatu. The Department of Energy takes this on as a core objective of the agency to ensure energy security for all people in Vanuatu by 2030. Access to secure, affordable, widely accessible, high quality, clean energy services is one of the main priorities laid out in the Updated Vanuatu National Energy Road Map 2016-2030.

Vanuatu is well endowed with some renewable energy sources such as hydropower, solar power, biomass, wind power, coconut bio-fuel, and geothermal power. These resources offer considerable potential to provide Vanuatu with a diversity of energy supply sources and reduce its dependence on imported fossil fuels. Renewable sources used most in Vanuatu include firewood (fuel for cooking) and solar (source of lighting).

The NSDP Baseline Survey asked households about their access and use of some key energy sources that can affect household expenditure. Main grid electricity is the primary source of lighting for 85% of urban households and 14% of rural households. This amounts to an estimated 20,234 households that rely on main grid electricity to light their homes. By contrast, renewable solar energy is the main source of lighting energy in the country. The sun's energy is captured in solar panels and solar lamps and supplies lighting to 83% of rural households and 13% of urban households. This amounts to an estimated 40,780 households that rely on solar energy to light their homes. Just 3% of households rely on other sources for lighting including gas, kerosene, generators, torchlights, candles, or wood.

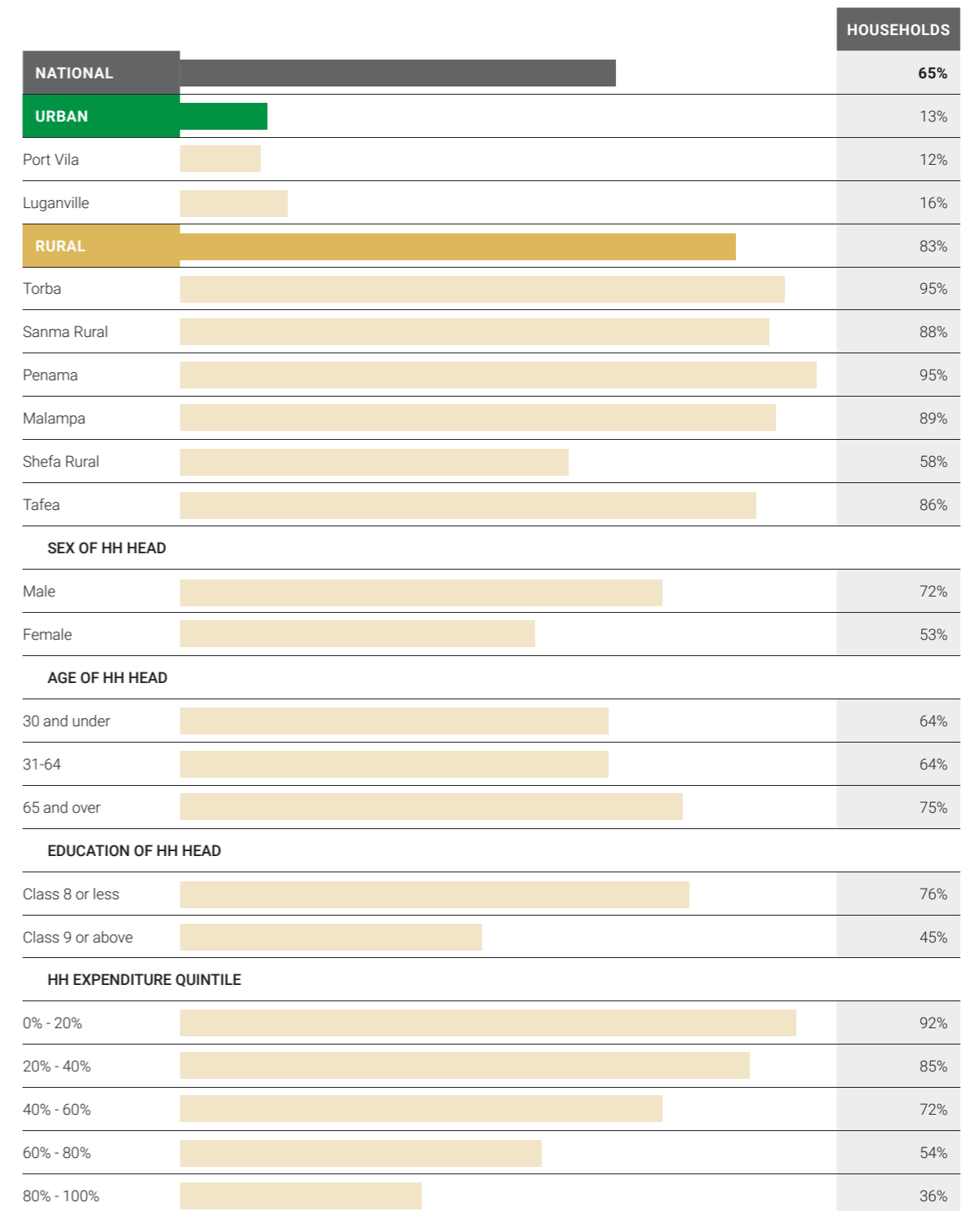


The move to renewable sources can be shown in a time series using previous Household Income and Expenditure Surveys from 2006 and 2010. We see the use of kerosene lamps as a main source of lighting drop from 67% in 2006 to 0% today. Solar panels and lamps began to be reported in 2010 listed as "other" and have since replaced the kerosene lamps as the most widely used main source of lighting for households in Vanuatu.

The People's Plan lays out the desire of the nation to develop sustainably and sees improving access to renewable sources of energy as a national priority. Specifically, the framework lists household use of renewable energy as key indicators for two different Policy Objectives.

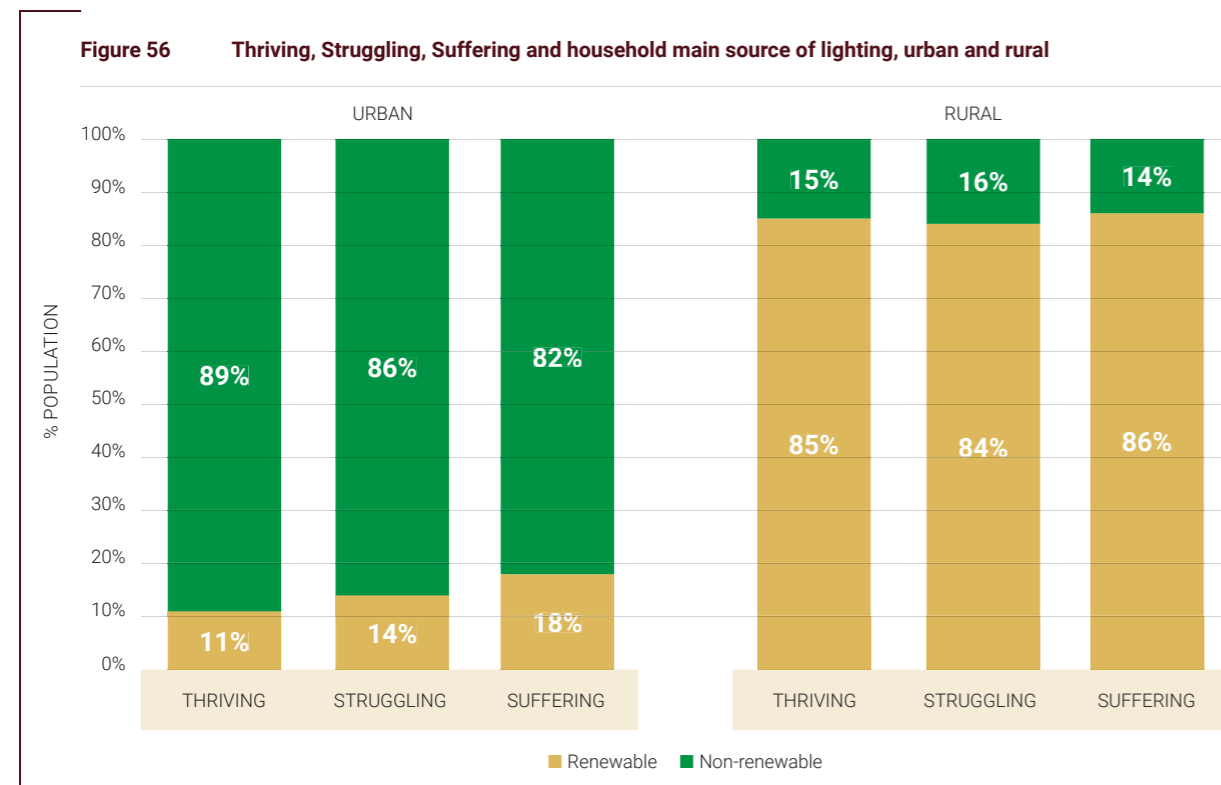
- ECONOMY 2.1 Increase access to safe, reliable and affordable modern energy services for all that are increasingly generated from renewable sources and reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels
- ENVIRONMENT 2.3 Promote renewable sources of energy and promote efficient energy use

Figure 55 % Households using renewable solar technology as main source of lighting by area and group



Nearly two thirds of all households in Vanuatu, 65%, use renewable solar technology as their main source of lighting. Rural Vanuatu households are largely energy independent with the exception of rural households in Shefa where main grid electricity is becoming more available than ever before. There is a significant disparity at the household level depending on sex of the household head. Households headed by men are more likely to use renewable energy as the main source of lighting than are households headed by women. Households headed by women are nearly twice as likely to use main grid electricity as their main source of lighting. Use of renewable energy for lighting is linked with income and education as well. Households headed by individuals attaining higher levels of formal education are considerably less likely to use renewable energy as their main source of lighting. The more income households earn, the more likely they are to both reside near the main grid and to be able to afford to pay for electricity.

The Government prioritizes increasing access to home solar panel systems in rural areas. The information collected in the NSDP Baseline Survey will report against Economic Policy Objective 2.1, "Increase access to safe, reliable and affordable modern energy services for all that are increasingly generated from renewable sources and reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels". The number of mini-grid renewable energy systems in rural communities is an indicator that can be tracked over time. The Pico solar home system ranging from 50-150 watts was the most prevalent solar panel system in Vanuatu. Half, 50%, of all households using solar panels as their main source of lighting energy use the Pico system, compared with 37% using the standard domestic solar home system and just 7% using a commercial solar home system.

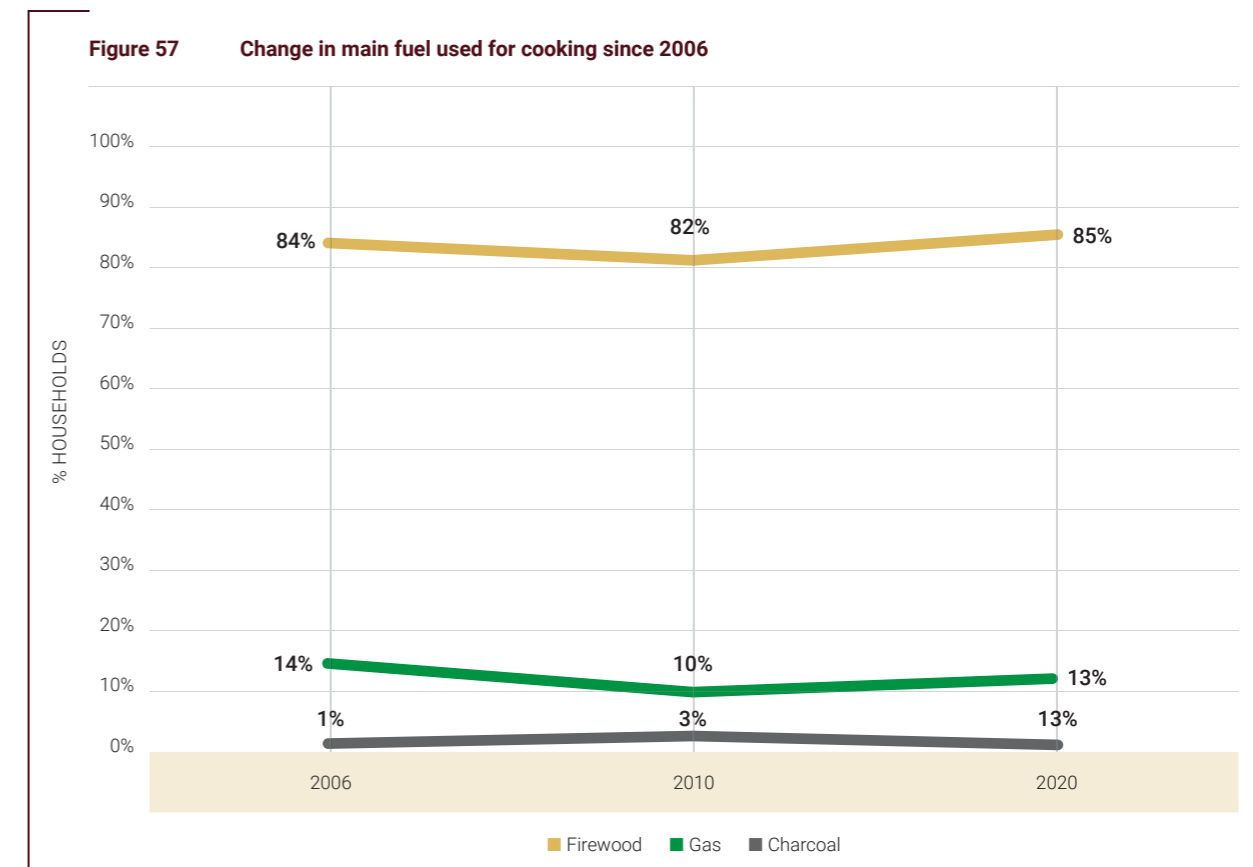


The nature of the main energy source a household uses for lighting—renewable or non-renewable²⁸—does not appear to have a significant impact on well-being in Vanuatu, particularly in rural areas. An individual's ability to thrive in rural areas is not hampered by the availability or affordability of non-renewable energy sources, including main grid electricity.

Firewood is the main source of energy used for cooking in Vanuatu. A large majority, 85%, of households in Vanuatu, or 53,133 households, use primarily firewood to prepare meals. The main source of energy used for cooking is gas for 43% of urban households. Gas has become more prevalent in rural households in Shefa Province as well, likely due to the proximity of households to the gas market of Port Vila.

²⁸ Non-renewable energy sources, for purposes of this indicator, includes electricity from a main grid. Some main grid electricity is produced with renewable resources, but a significant amount is generated using diesel-powered generators.

Cooking with fire is a cultural preference and is how most people learn to cook in Vanuatu. Traditional recipes typically require roasting foods with firewood or heating stones with firewood for baking. Many people are attracted to the taste of foods cooked with fire. We know that 93% of ni-Vanuatu enjoy free access to forest resources. This access may also incentivize the use of firewood for cooking in order for a household to save money.



There has been very little change in main source of cooking fuel over the last 14 years, using previous HIES collections as for reference. This further supports the need to ensure sustainable forest management in order for people to continue using firewood for cooking as the population continues to grow.

Communication Infrastructure and Services

Mobile phones have become, for many, the main form of communication in Vanuatu since the rapid infrastructure development of rural mobile networks began in the late 2000's. Digital signals now reach nearly every corner of the country, making mobile phones a common feature of households across the country. They are used to make and receive phone calls and text messages from loved ones or for business purposes. Smart phones are used to access the internet and social media and have been key instruments at conveying important news and early warnings of inclement weather and natural disasters.

Owning or having access to a mobile phone in working condition is becoming essential in Vanuatu. Policy Objective 6.7 under the Society pillar of the People's Plan is to "guarantee the public's right to information", and mobile phone ownership for people age 15 and higher is a key indicator for tracking progress over time.

Figure 58 % Population age 15+ owning and using mobile phones by area and group

		POPULATION
NATIONAL	Ownership	57%
	Use	71%
URBAN	Ownership	74%
	Use	84%
Port Vila	Ownership	74%
	Use	84%
Luganville	Ownership	74%
	Use	75%
RURAL	Ownership	51%
	Use	67%
Torba	Ownership	37%
	Use	50%
Sanma Rural	Ownership	54%
	Use	58%
Penama	Ownership	55%
	Use	66%
Malampa	Ownership	45%
	Use	80%
Shefa Rural	Ownership	64%
	Use	74%
Tafea	Ownership	34%
	Use	57%
SEX		
Male	Ownership	66%
	Use	77%
Female	Ownership	48%
	Use	66%
AGE		
15-30	Ownership	58%
	Use	71%
31-64	Ownership	61%
	Use	75%
65 and over	Ownership	37%
	Use	53%
MARITAL STATUS		
Never Married	Ownership	55%
	Use	67%
Married	Ownership	56%
	Use	73%

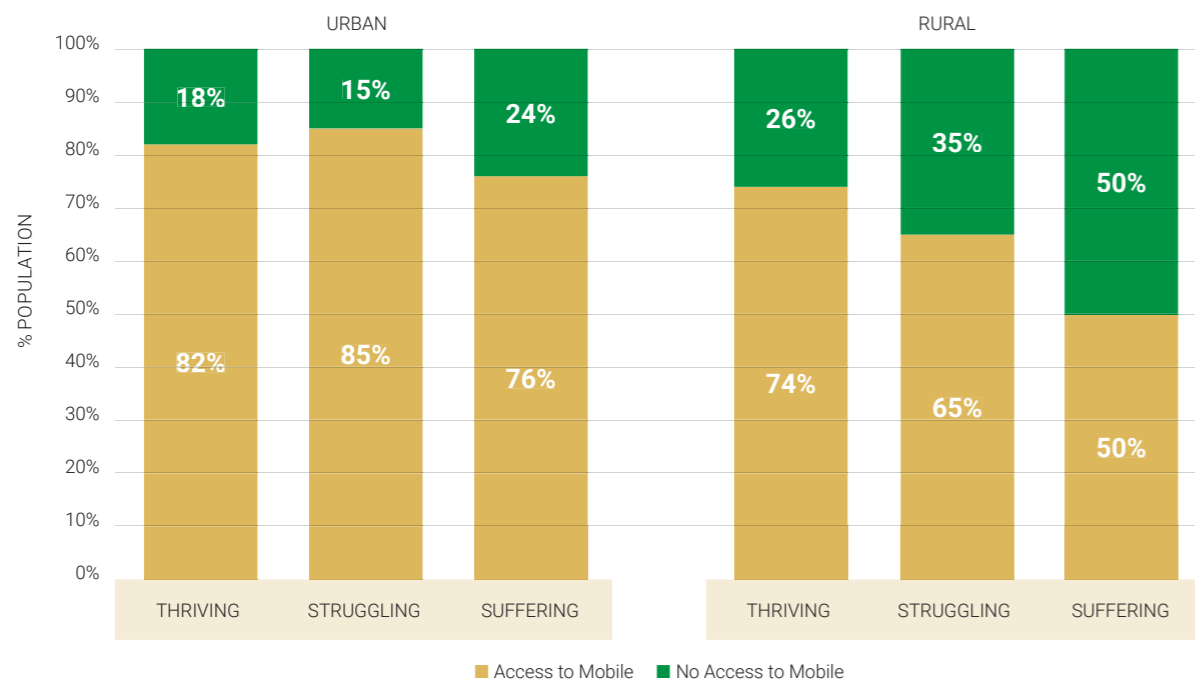
De Facto	Ownership	73%
	Use	80%
Divorced/Separated	Ownership	78%
	Use	82%
Widowed	Ownership	32%
	Use	49%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
Non or Kindy	Ownership	22%
	Use	37%
Through Class 6	Ownership	47%
	Use	66%
Through Class 8	Ownership	52%
	Use	66%
Jr Secondary	Ownership	65%
	Use	78%
Sr Secondary	Ownership	78%
	Use	87%
Post Secondary, University	Ownership	86%
	Use	93%

Individual ownership of mobile phones reveals a slight majority, 57%, of ni-Vanuatu aged 15 and over have at least one mobile phone in working condition. Access, however, is not the same as ownership. The 2019-2020 NSDP Baseline Survey found a greater proportion, 71%, of the population have used a mobile phone to make or receive phone calls in the 30-day period preceding their interview. This helps illustrate access through borrowing and access through household sharing. People in Malampa and Tafea Provinces share access to mobile phones more than people in other parts of the country do.

Male youth and adults are more likely to own a mobile phone in working order than female youth and adults. People ages 65 and higher are far less likely to own a mobile phone in working order than are younger people. Widows are at a disadvantage with just under one third, 32%, owning a mobile phone in working condition. Higher levels of educational attainment raise the chances of owning a mobile phone from 22% of those with no formal education or only completing Kindergarten or Pre-School, to 86% of those having completed Post-Secondary, Tertiary, and Vocational or University level formal education.

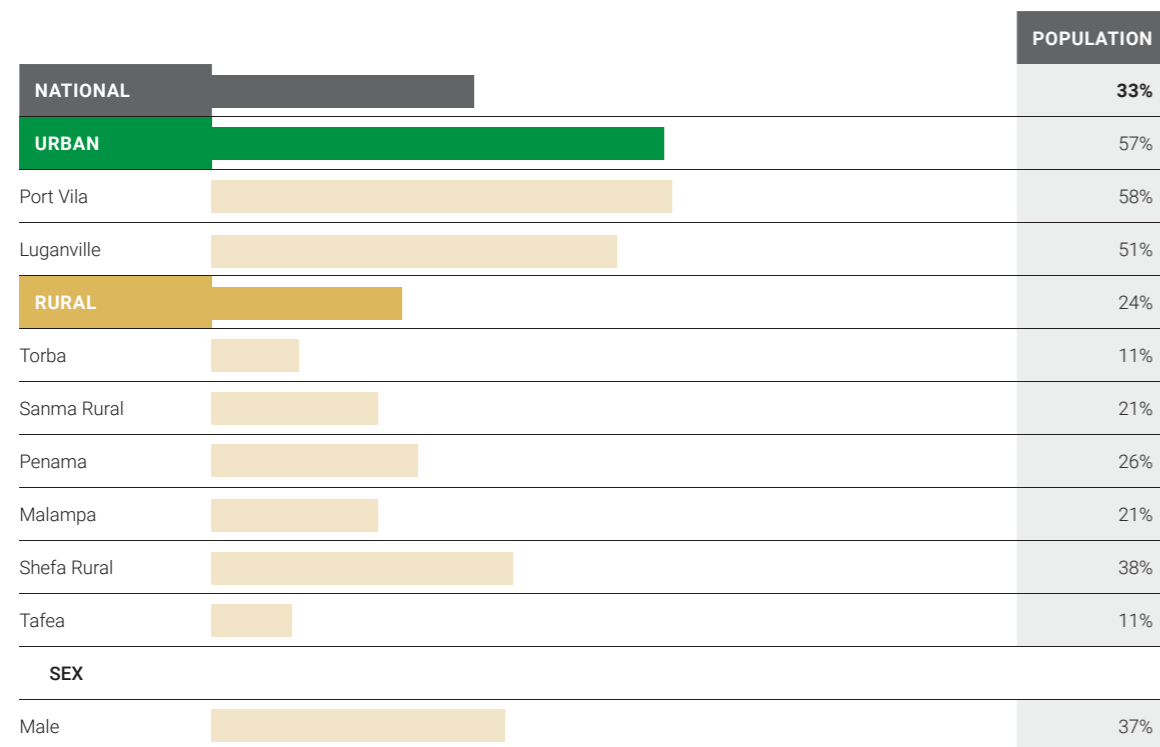
More people use mobile phones than own mobile phones. A vast majority of households in Vanuatu, 82%, have at least one mobile phone in working condition. Households in both urban centers and rural Shefa Province, where mobile signals are the most dependable, are more likely to own at least one mobile phone in working condition. The national average number of mobile phones per household is two. Nearly a quarter of households in rural areas, 23%, do not own a mobile phone. Households in Torba and Tafea Provinces were the least likely to report owning at least one mobile phone. Older households headed by individuals aged 65 and over are far less likely to have a mobile phone than are younger households. Households headed by individuals that attained a Junior Secondary education or higher were much more likely to have at least one mobile phone than households headed by individuals with lower formal education outcomes. This, along with the fact that wealthier households tend to be in urban centers, explains the relationship between income and mobile phone ownership.

Figure 59 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and access to mobile phones, urban and rural



Thriving individuals in rural areas are much more likely to have access to mobile phones than those that are worse off. Only one out of two individuals that are suffering in rural areas enjoy access to a mobile phone, compared to more than three out of four thriving individuals—a 26% difference. Access to mobile phones is a condition for well-being in urban centers as well, although the difference in access between those that are thriving and those that are suffering is just 6%. Improving access to mobile phones, particularly in rural areas, will have positive well-being outcomes.

Figure 60 % Population age 15+ using internet at least once a month by area



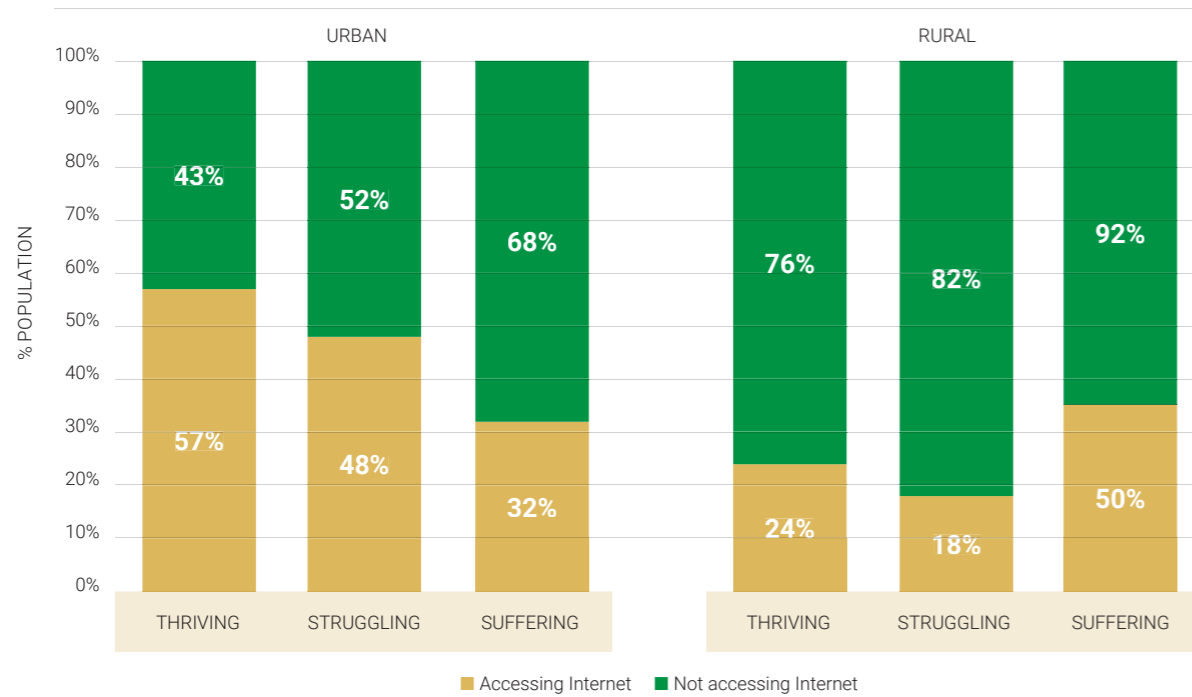
Female	29%
AGE	
15-30	43%
31-64	27%
65 and over	11%
MARITAL STATUS	
Never Married	45%
Married	24%
De Facto	49%
Divorced/Separated	38%
Widowed	7%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	
Non or Kindy	4%
Through Class 6	13%
Through Class 8	24%
Jr Secondary	44%
Sr Secondary	65%
Post Secondary, University	81%

One-third, 33%, of the population age 15 and higher accessed the internet in the 30-day period prior to the survey interview. People living in urban centers were more likely to have used the internet, with 57% of urban dwellers reporting to have gone online within the 30-day recall period compared to less than a quarter, 24%, of people living in rural areas. Male youth and adults, younger individuals, and individuals that completed higher levels of formal education are accessing the internet more than female youth and adults, older individuals, and individuals that completed lower levels of formal education. Only 7% of widowed ni-Vanuatu used the internet in the 30-day period leading up to the interview. Fewer married ni-Vanuatu, 24%, reported having used the internet within the recall period, compared to those that have never married, those in de facto relationships, and those divorced or separated.

Mobile smart phones are the main way ni-Vanuatu access the internet. A large majority of internet users access the internet with a mobile phone.



Figure 61 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and use of internet, urban and rural



Thriving individuals are more likely to access and use the internet than those that are worse off in both urban and rural areas in Vanuatu. The internet is a great way to socialize, build networks, do research, and stay up to date on current events.

Access to and use of home internet, newspapers, television, and radio are measures of progress against the People’s Plan. Society Policy Objective 6.7 looks to, “guarantee the public’s right to information” for a more dynamic public sector with good governance principles and strong institutions delivering the support and services expected by all citizens of Vanuatu. Environment Policy Objective 3.2 looks to, “improve monitoring and early warning systems” for a strong and resilient nation in the face of climate change and disaster risks posed by natural and man-made hazards.

Table 8 % Households with members accessing home internet, radio, newspaper and television at least once a month by area

	USE INTERNET (MODEM OR WIFI)	LISTEN TO RADIO	READ A NEWSPAPER	WATCH TELEVISION
NATIONAL	7%	26%	20%	21%
URBAN	12%	51%	53%	55%
Port Vila	15%	57%	59%	62%
Luganville	3%	30%	29%	30%
RURAL	6%	18%	9%	10%
Torba	4%	5%	2%	1%
Sanma Rural	1%	11%	5%	4%
Penama	9%	26%	5%	11%
Malampa	12%	14%	3%	3%
Shefa Rural	6%	31%	27%	29%
Tafea	1%	9%	1%	2%

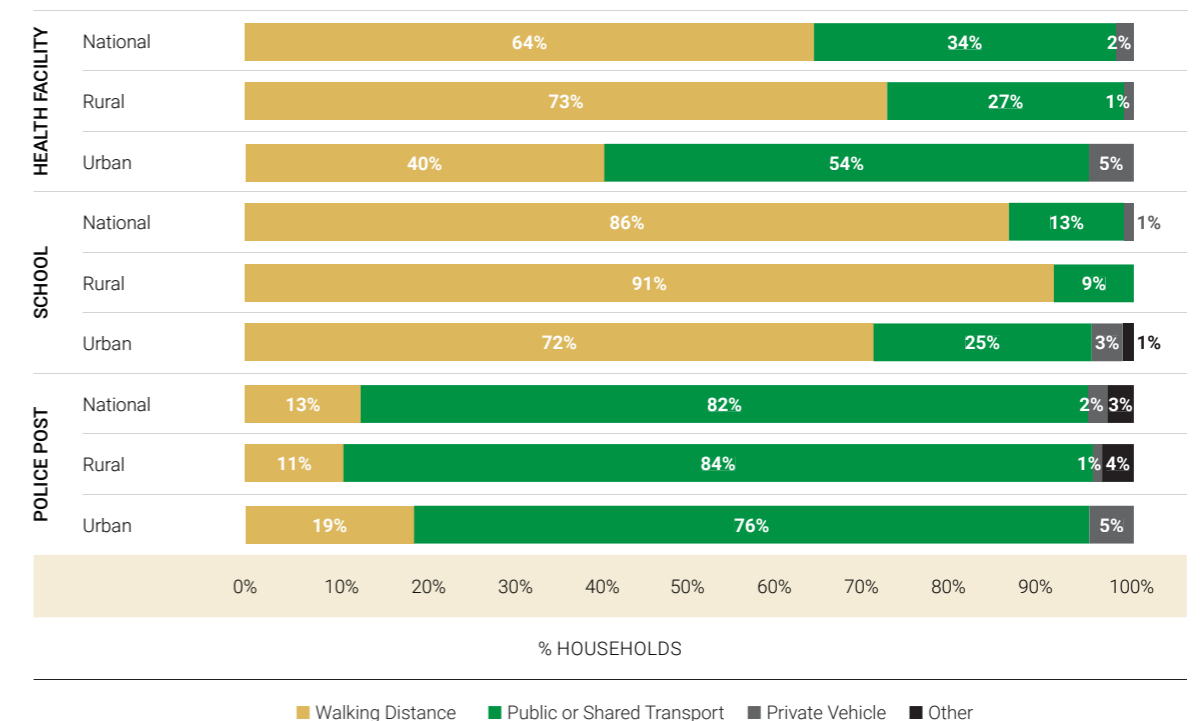
Less than one in ten households, 7%, have members accessing internet using a home modem or Wi-Fi. Radio continues to be the dominant medium for transmitting news, although significantly more households in urban areas reported having listened to the radio within the 30-day recall period. People living in rural households are also significantly less likely to read a newspaper or watch television than people living in urban households.

Health, Education, Security, and Market Services

Distance to reach essential services is an indicator of access. Longer distances to school might mean more days a child is absent due to inclement weather. The further it is to reach the nearest road or seaport limits one’s access to markets for selling crops. Transportation options may be limited in some areas. The NSDP Baseline Survey asked respondents questions on usual methods of transport, the convenience of public transport, and the amount of time it takes for people to reach essential services from where they live.

Nearly one-third, 32%, of all households in Vanuatu reported their nearest health facility to be a hospital. Dispensaries were the second most accessible health facility in Vanuatu—30% of rural households reported a dispensary as their closest health facility, followed by aid posts and hospitals. Nearly half, 48%, of the households in Penama Province reported a dispensary as their closest health facility. Aid posts are the closest health facilities for a quarter or more of households in Torba, Penama, Tafea, and rural Shefa Provinces.

Figure 62 Usual mode of transportation to nearest health facility, school, and police post by area



A majority of households in Vanuatu, 64%, are within walking distance to their nearest health facility. This is greater in rural areas, while 60% of urban households use public transport, a private vehicle or other means to reach the nearest health facility.

86% of households in Vanuatu are within walking distance of their nearest school. This again is greater in rural areas, while more than a quarter of households in urban areas use public or private transportation to reach the nearest school.

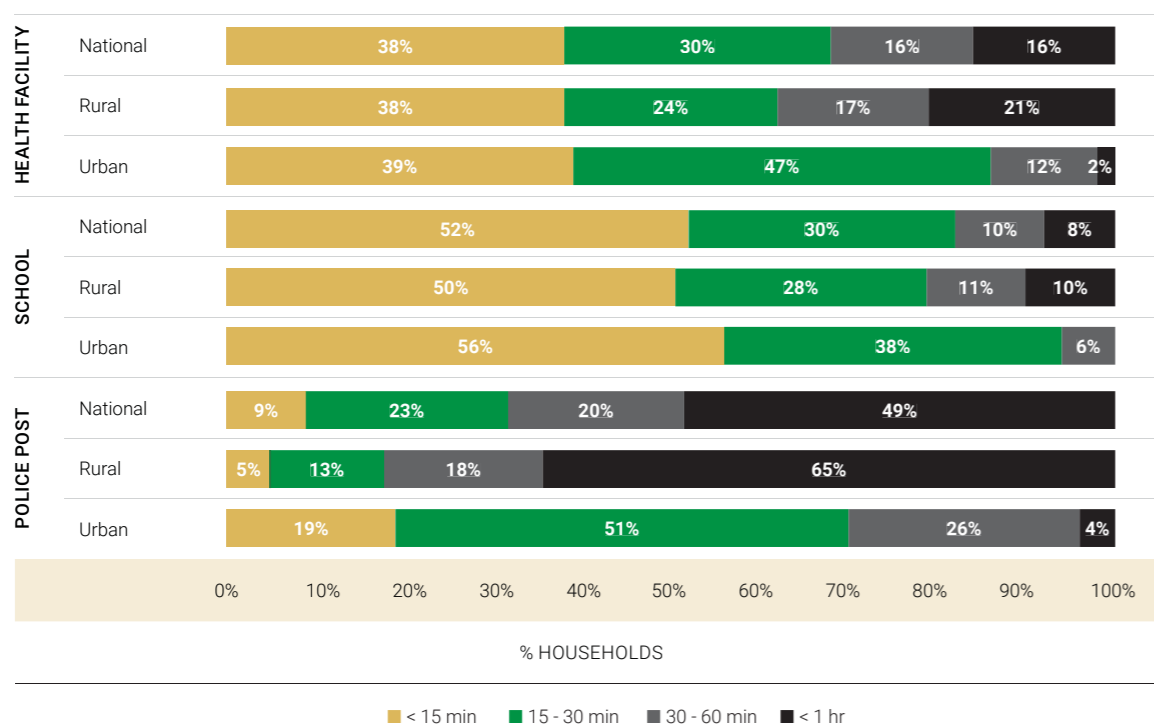
Police posts are less accessible than schools and health facilities. A big majority, 82%, of all households in Vanuatu require public or private transportation to reach their nearest police post. Community-based police liaisons are helping to bridge the gap and enable security services in rural or hard to reach areas.

Figure 63 Mean level of convenience of public transport, 0-10, by area

	VALUE	LESS CONVENIENT	MORE CONVENIENT	DIFFERENCE
NATIONAL	7.27			
URBAN	8.58			1.31
Port Vila	8.74			1.47
Luganville	8.01			0.74
RURAL	6.82			-0.45
Torba	4.91			-2.37
Sanma Rural	6.26			-1.02
Penama	7.11			-0.17
Malampa	6.85			-0.43
Shefa Rural	7.90			0.63
Tafea	6.41			-0.86

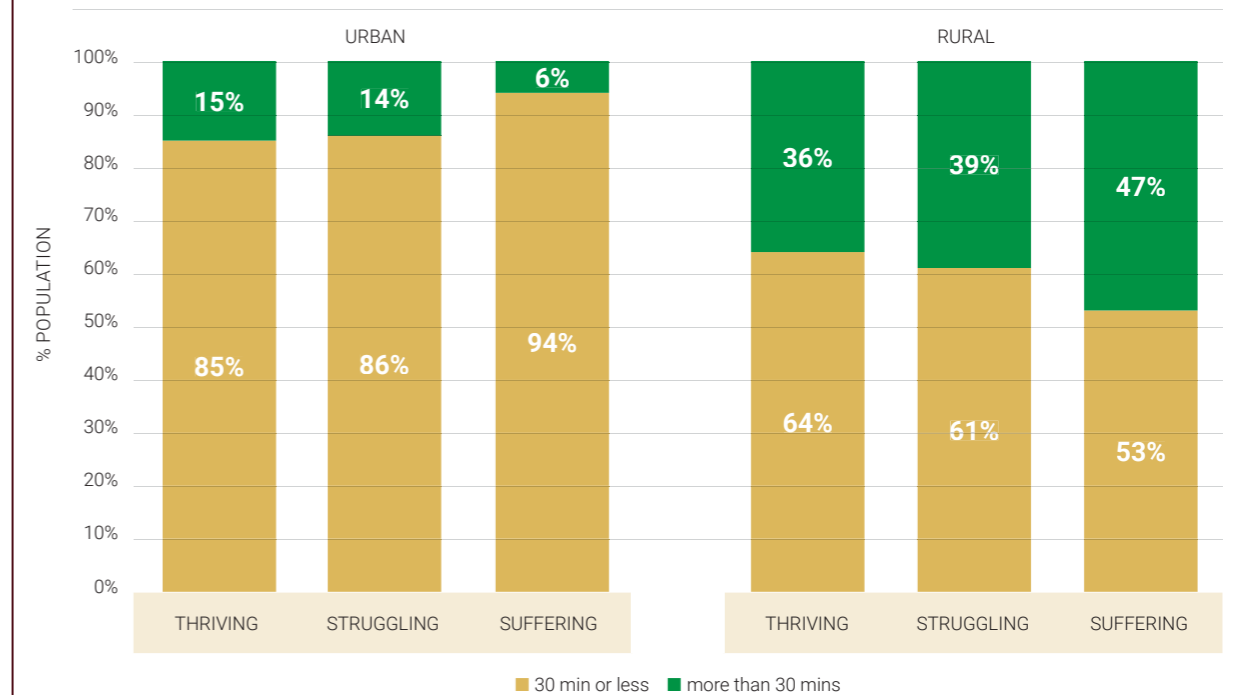
Public transportation, used by more than a third of the population to reach health facilities and by the vast majority to reach a police post, is more convenient for people in urban areas than in rural areas. It is particularly less convenient for households in Torba, rural Sanma, and Tafea Provinces.

Figure 64 Time to nearest health facility, school, and police post using usual mode of transportation by area



Health facilities are reachable within an hour, using usual mode of transportation, for 84% of households in Vanuatu. One out of five households, 21%, in rural Vanuatu travel more than one hour in order to reach the nearest health facility.

Figure 65 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and time to nearest health facility

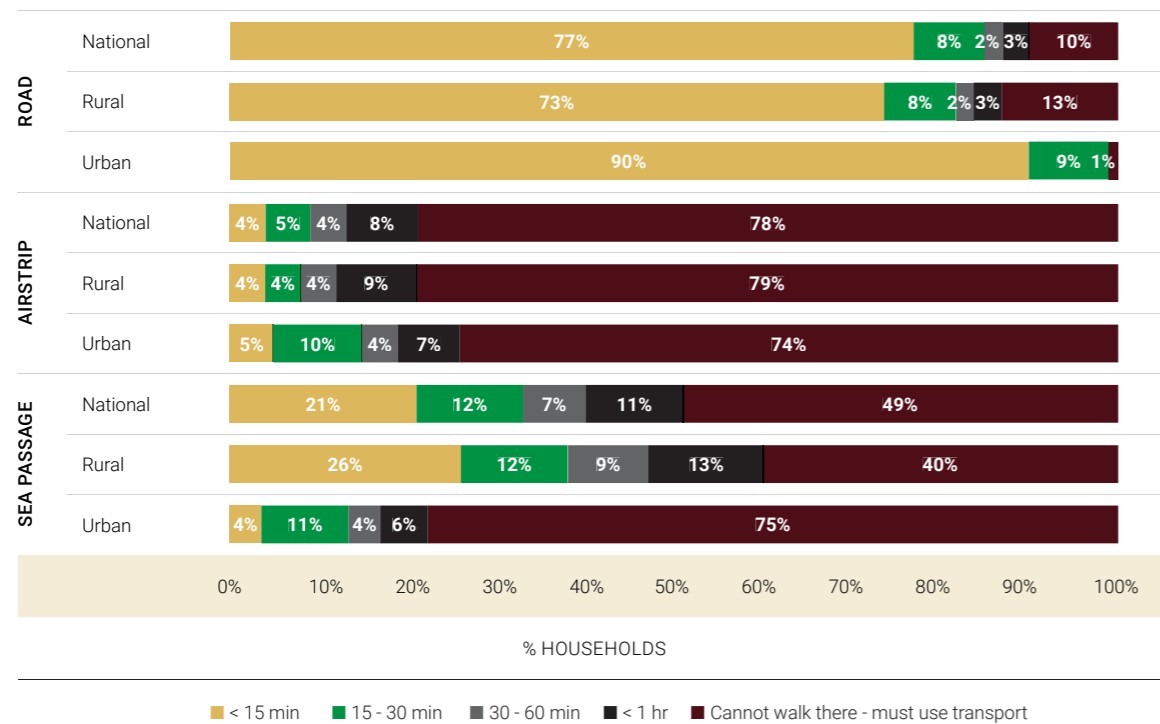


The time required to reach the nearest health facility using one's usual mode of transportation does not appear to have an impact on well-being in urban centers. Individuals in rural areas are, however, more likely to be thriving if they are within 30 minutes traveling distance to the nearest health facility. Improving access to health facilities in rural areas will have positive well-being outcomes, particularly in rural areas. Policy emphasis on service access may be better reviewed from a quality perspective rather than distance.

Schools are slightly more accessible than health facilities throughout the country. More than half, 52%, of households are within 15 minutes of their nearest schools using usual modes of transportation. One in ten households, 10%, in rural Vanuatu travel more than 1 hour to reach their nearest school. As with access to health services, there does not appear to be a strong relationship between the time it takes to reach the nearest school and well-being. Emphasis on the quality of education people have access to will have a larger impact than focusing on travel distance.

The use of a police post in Vanuatu will require nearly half of all households, 49%, to travel more than one hour using their usual mode of transportation. The burden is greatest among rural households, 65% of which would require more than an hour journey to reach their nearest police post. It is important for traditional leaders to have improved access to security services when needed. Authorities may be working towards this goal and have made progress since the collection of data began in February 2019.

Figure 66 Walking time to reach nearest road, airstrip, and sea passage by area

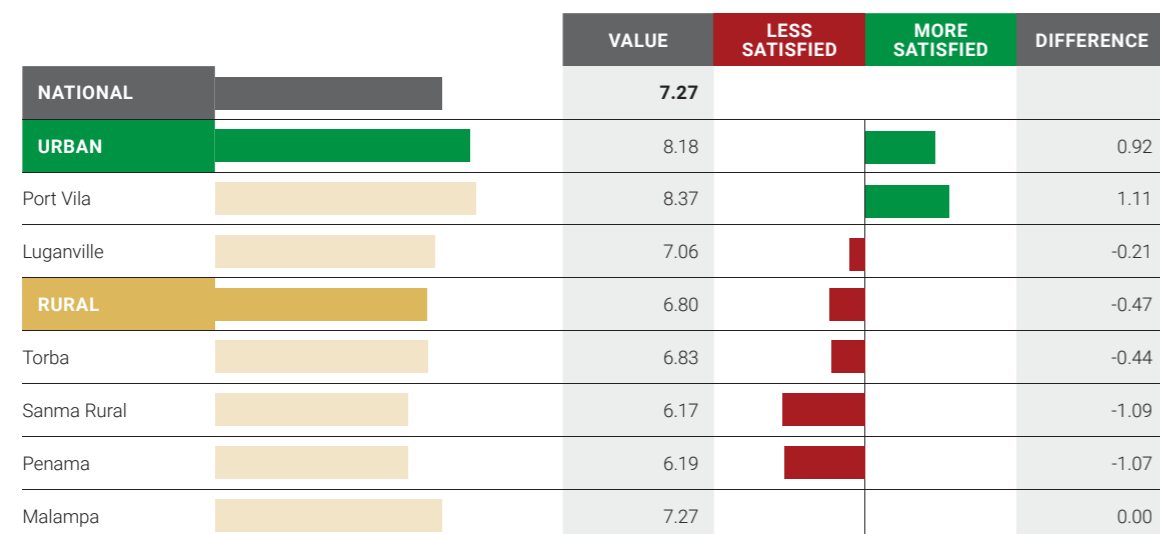


A walk to the nearest service road takes less than an hour for 90% of households in Vanuatu. More than three quarters, 78%, of households in Vanuatu require transportation to reach the nearest airstrip. Nearly half, 49%, of households in Vanuatu are not within walking distance of a sea passage. Over a quarter, 26%, of rural households in Vanuatu are within a 15-minute walk from a sea passage.

Satisfaction and Trust in Services and Providers

Households access services provided by the government and are rarely asked about their experience or level of satisfaction with the services or service providers. The NSDP Baseline Survey asked individuals aged 18 and over about their satisfaction with services and levels of trust in service providers.

Figure 67 Mean level of satisfaction with government services, 0-10, by area



Shefa Rural	5.99		-1.28
Tafea	7.92		0.65
SEX			
Male	7.09		-0.18
Female	7.46		0.20
AGE			
15-30	7.35		0.08
31-64	7.23		-0.03
65 and over	7.19		-0.08
MARITAL STATUS			
Never Married	7.51		0.24
Married	7.13		-0.13
De Facto	7.63		0.36
Divorced/Separated	7.37		0.10
Widowed	7.43		0.17
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT			
Non or Kindy	7.08		-0.18
Through Class 6	7.00		-0.27
Through Class 8	7.00		-0.27
Jr Secondary	7.57		0.30
Sr Secondary	7.63		0.37
Post Secondary, University	7.90		0.64

People living in urban centers and in Tafea Province had levels of satisfaction with their last interaction with government services higher than the national mean of 7.27. People living in rural Shefa, rural Sanma and Penama Provinces had levels of satisfaction significantly lower than the national mean. This indicator helps report against UN SDG 16, for all countries to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

There is no significant variation in satisfaction levels of government services among different social groups, all staying within a point of the national mean. A trend is noticeable when looking at highest level of completion in education. Those that completed higher levels of education had, overall, higher than average satisfaction levels with government services. Higher educational attainment is also greater in urban areas which helps explain this relationship.

Figure 68 Mean level of trust in Civil Service, Police, and Parliament, 0-10, by area

	VALUE
NATIONAL	
Parliament	6.88
Police Force	6.93
Civil Service	7.22
URBAN	
Parliament	7.42
Police Force	7.67
Civil Service	7.65
RURAL	
Parliament	6.60
Police Force	6.55
Civil Service	7.00

People living in rural areas have lower overall levels of trust in civil service providers, in the police, and in the elected officials in Parliament than do people living in urban centers. The greatest difference in mean levels of trust between people in rural and urban areas occurs with the National Police Force. Vanuatu's civil service received the highest level of trust from the people of Vanuatu.

Table 9 Mean levels of trust in Civil Service, Police, and Parliament by area

	PARLIAMENT	POLICE FORCE	CIVIL SERVICE
NATIONAL	6.88	6.93	7.22
URBAN	7.42	7.67	7.65
Port Vila	7.52	7.93	7.73
Luganville	6.85	6.20	7.13
RURAL	6.60	6.55	7.00
Torba	6.90	6.42	7.39
Sanma Rural	5.29	6.17	6.39
Penama	6.87	6.65	6.82
Malampa	7.05	6.20	6.86
Shefa Rural	5.89	5.96	6.80
Tafea	7.87	8.66	8.63

People in Tafea Province reported higher overall levels of trust in government than did people living in other areas. People in rural areas of Sanma Province reported lower overall levels of trust in Parliament than did people living in other areas.

Well-being and Access

Vanuatu has a vibrant traditional economy guided by shared community values and cultural norms. The traditional economy once provided a sustainable supply of food, housing, medicine and more for centuries before the introduction of currency, and it continues to support livelihoods in Vanuatu to this day. The traditional economy, according to those that coined the term, "constitutes the political, economic and social foundation of contemporary Vanuatu society and is the source of resilience for our populations, which has allowed them to weather the vagaries of the global economy over past decades²⁹."

Access and use of customary lands supports livelihood needs for a majority of people in Vanuatu today. Most households in rural areas, where roughly three out of every four people in Vanuatu reside, are actively farming, tending livestock, fishing or hunting, and harvesting firewood, fruits and nuts on lands and marine areas that are free for them to use. Most of these rural households live in housing located on indigenous land. They benefit from a significant amount of economic self-reliance as a result, reporting consumption of home produced vegetables, root crops, fruits, nuts, fish, eggs, and meat. All households in Vanuatu require a level of income that enables them to participate in modern exchanges for goods and services, even in rural areas, however, the loss of access or rights to indigenous resources results in a much greater dependency on the cash economy to provide for the basic needs of families in Vanuatu.

The data from the NSDP Baseline Survey provides evidence of a drop in access to indigenous resources since the 2010 pilot study, as well as a decrease in the proportion of those with access using lands for housing, food production and livestock. The downtrend in access and use of customary lands should be worrying—**access to customary lands is a characteristic of thriving individuals in both rural and urban settings in Vanuatu**. Maintaining and improving customary land access to all people is the work of traditional leaders. The Constitution of the Republic of Vanuatu provides them with a mandate to protect indigenous assets so that those people can benefit from access rights today and for generations to come.

Productivity is a condition for thriving in urban and rural Vanuatu—formal employment offers more income security and has a clear relationship with well-being. Informal employment also shares a positive relationship with well-being and is more prevalent in rural areas. Financial security is another condition for thriving in Vanuatu—those with access to money held in bank accounts are happier and more optimistic about their future than those that do not. Access to employment and financial services has an impact on one's ability to thrive in urban and rural areas.

Improvements in access to improved water sources will have a positive impact on the well-being of individuals living in rural areas in Vanuatu, as will improvements in access to basic services including those offered at health facilities. While improved water and access to services is also important for well-being in urban centers, there is essentially no difference in access among individuals that are thriving, suffering, or struggling in town—access to these services is more prevalent in these areas and therefore not as determinative to well-being. Individuals in urban centers have more trust in those that deliver services than individuals in rural areas, with the exception of traditional governance. Government services, including those from lawmakers, police, and civil service, should try to gain trust with rural residents through improved communications and engagement. Government, including traditional governance systems, should work for all people of Vanuatu regardless of their place of residence

29 Regenvanu, R. "The traditional economy as source of resilience in Vanuatu", published by AidWatch Australia, 2012

3 PROFILE OF KNOWLEDGE

Introduction

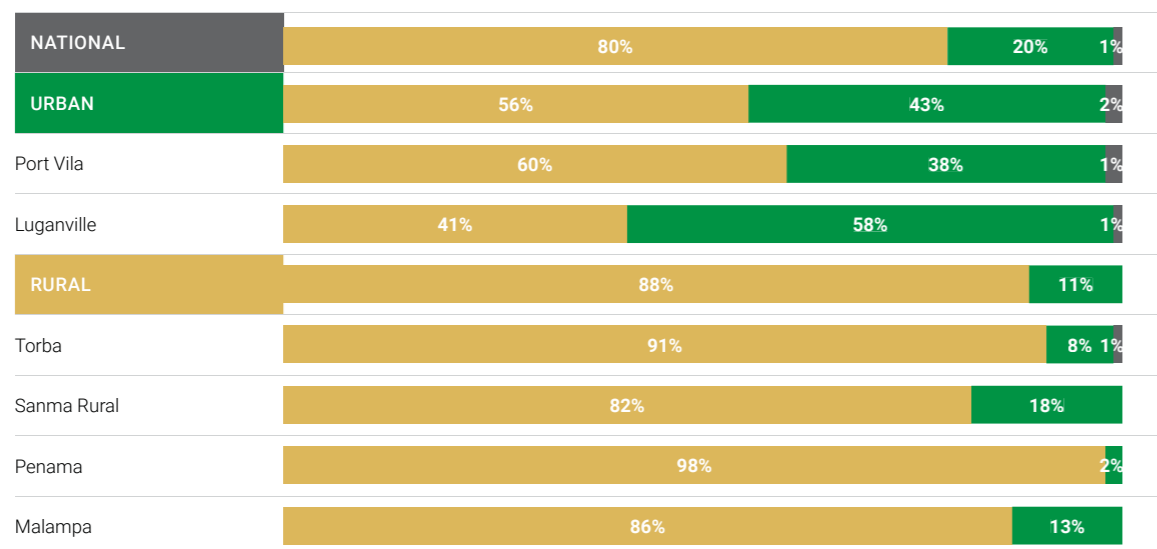
Knowledge is comprised of skills and information acquired through education or experience. We absorb a lot of knowledge from our family and community about our way of life through observation, storytelling, and routine living. Formal academic education provides us with skills in mathematics, the sciences and arts that further enrich our understanding of the world around us. This chapter looks at what we learn, how we learn it, and how we apply it.

Traditional knowledge is transmitted partly through language and is built and strengthened through cultural practice. This chapter will focus on the health of the main mechanism for traditional knowledge transfer—our indigenous languages. Finally, this chapter will explore ways in which individuals acquire traditional knowledge of family and place as well as wisdom from within their culture group, passed down for generations.

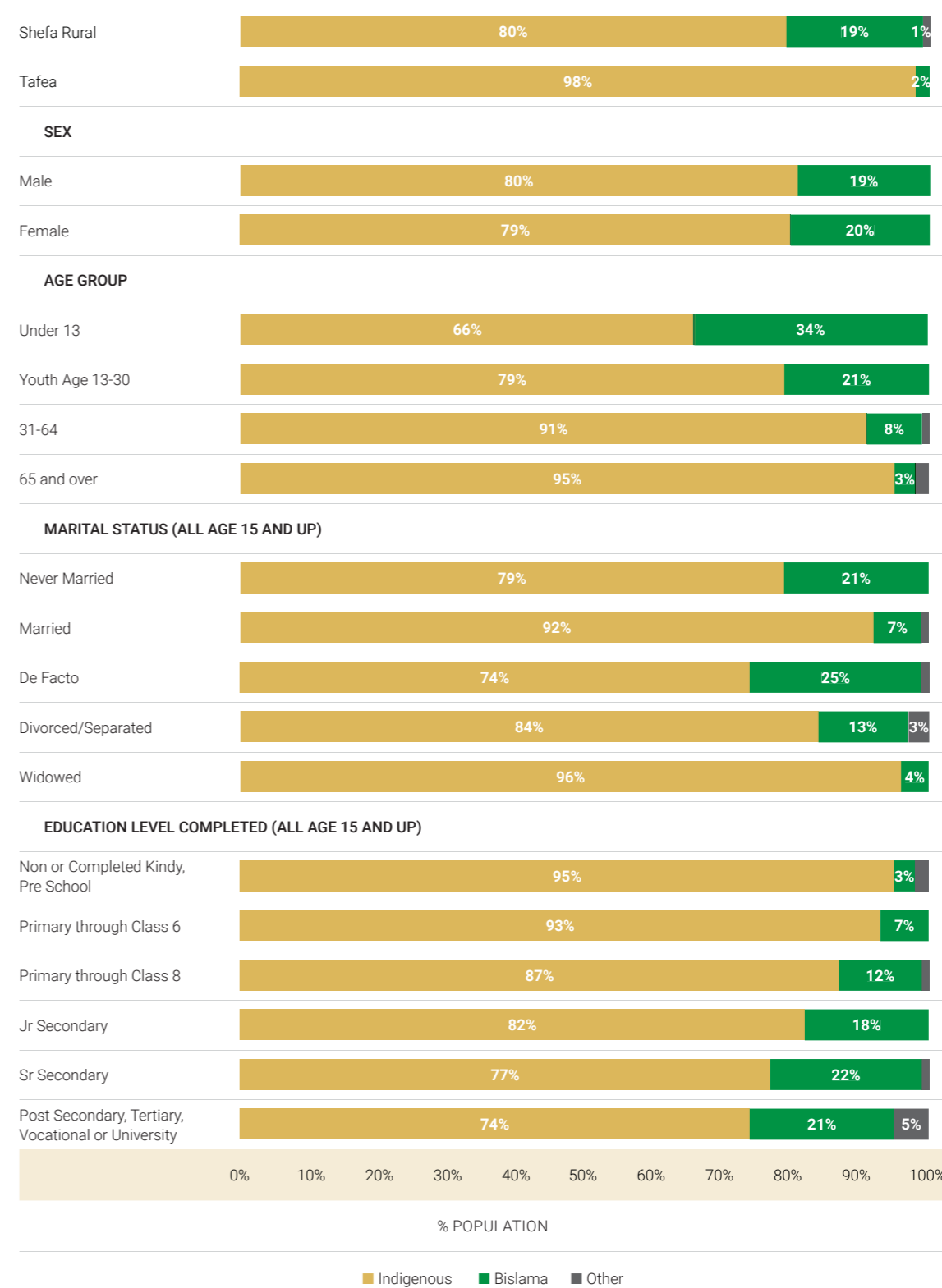
Language

Language is considered a vessel of traditional knowledge, packed with cultural cues and meaning. Vanuatu has three official languages—Bislama, French, and English—and there are an estimated 138 distinct indigenous languages spoken nationwide³⁰. Most ni-Vanuatu are able to speak and/or understand multiple languages. Indigenous languages are integral to ni-Vanuatu identity. It is through these languages that traditional stories are told, places are named, songs are sung, and skills and knowledge are transferred.

Figure 69 First language learned, age 3+, by area



³⁰ François, Alexandre; Franjeh, Michael; Lacrampe, Sébastien; Schnell, Stefan (2015), "The exceptional linguistic density of Vanuatu", in François, Alexandre; Lacrampe, Sébastien; Franjeh, Michael; Schnell, Stefan (eds.), *The Languages of Vanuatu: Unity and Diversity, Studies in the Languages of Island Melanesia*, Canberra: Asia Pacific Linguistics Open Access.



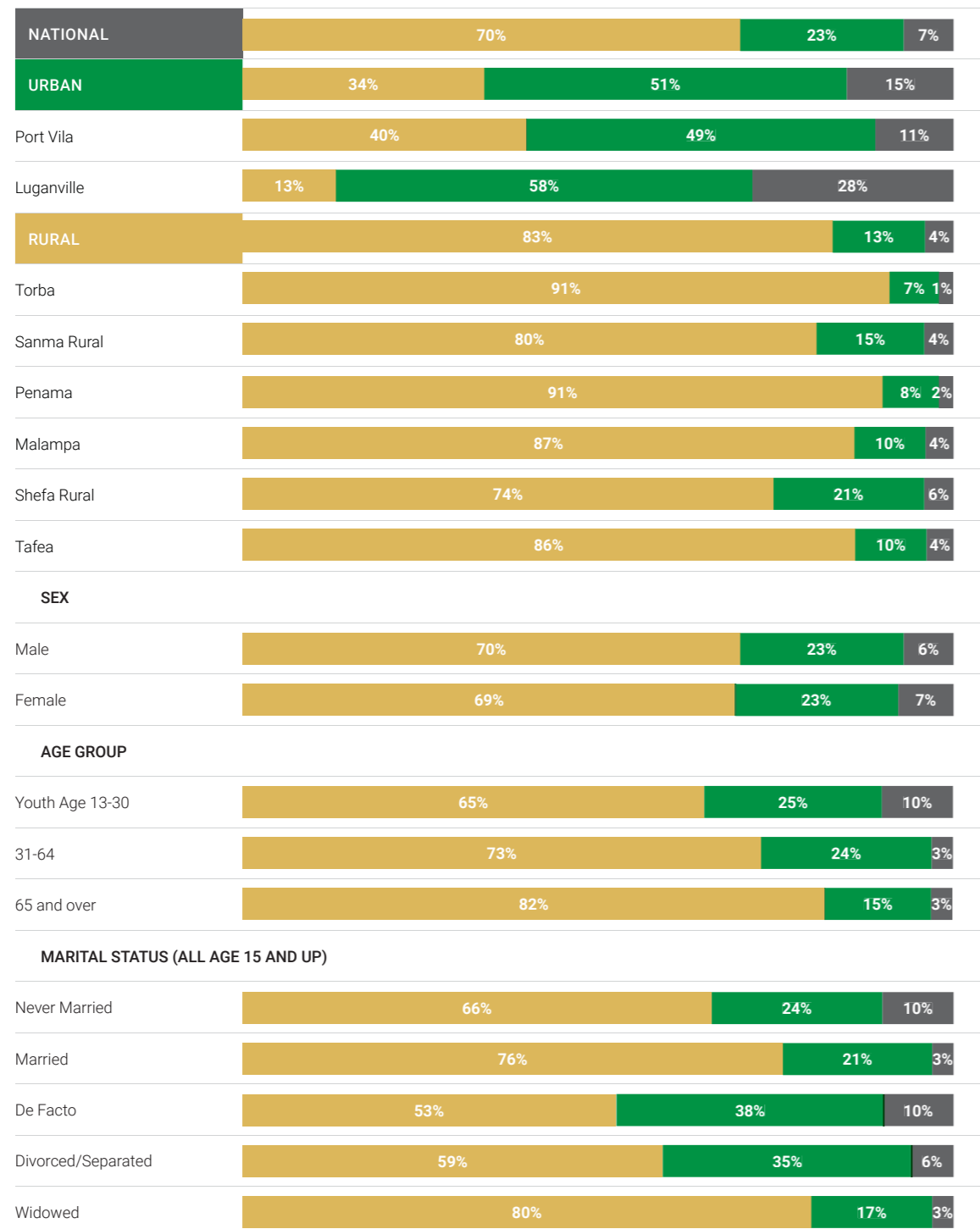
Indigenous local languages are the first languages learned by 80% of the population age 3 and higher. People living in urban centers are much less likely to have learned an indigenous language first compared with those living in rural areas. Penama and Tafea Provinces had the lowest proportion of the population age 3 and higher learning to speak Bislama or other language first.

Younger people are much more likely to have learned to speak Bislama first than older people are in Vanuatu—over one-third, 34%, of children under 13 learned to speak Bislama first. While indigenous languages are the first learned among the greater majority of every demographic grouping, a disturbing

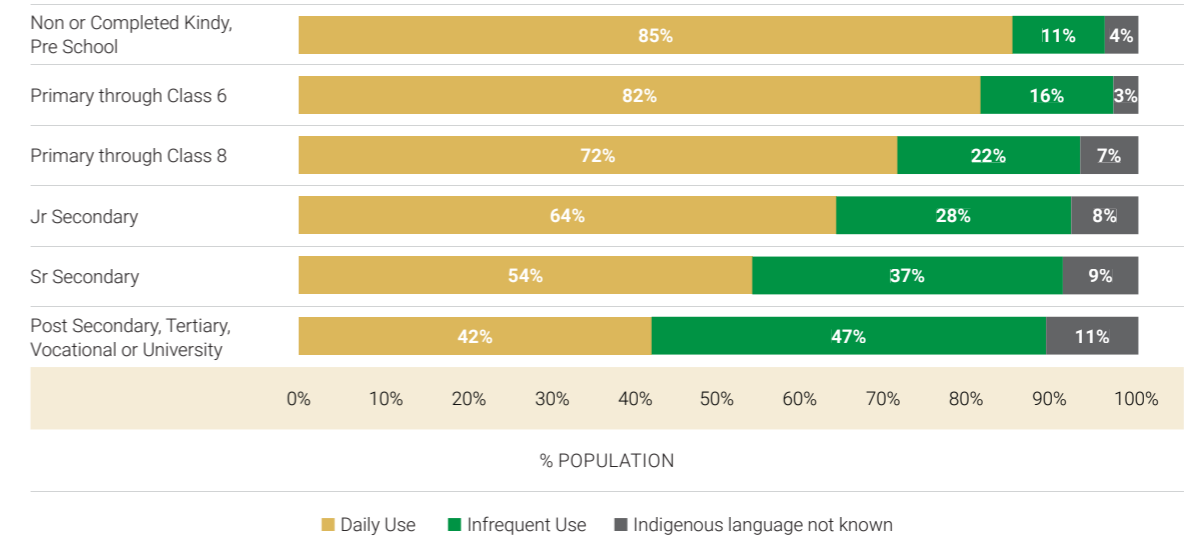
trend shows that those having completing higher levels of education are more likely to have learned Bislama or another language first.

The first language a person in Vanuatu learns to speak gives a clue indicating the level of traditional knowledge they learn in the course of their younger lives. The frequency of use of indigenous languages offers another clue. For example, one may learn to speak Bislama first and then learn an indigenous language while attending school in a rural area. One may learn an indigenous language first, as an alternative scenario, but stop using it after relocating to town. Frequency of use of indigenous language is therefore a critical indicator of the active transfer of traditional knowledge.

Figure 70 Daily use of indigenous language, age 12+, by area and group



EDUCATION LEVEL COMPLETED (ALL AGE 15 AND UP)

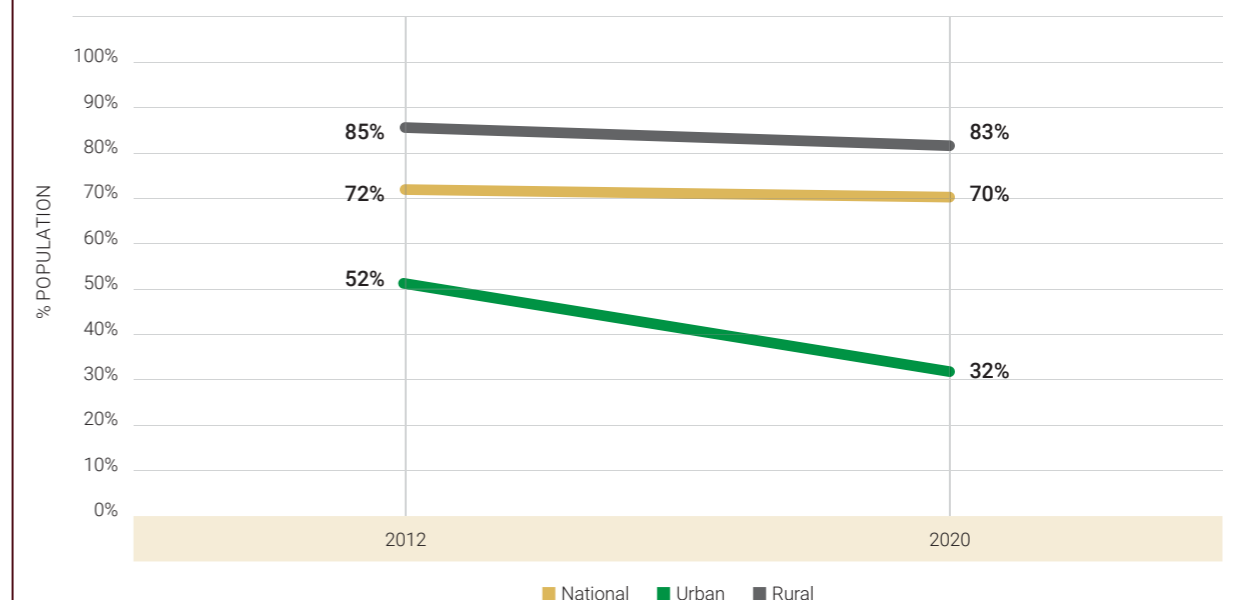


The majority, 70%, of people in Vanuatu ages 12 and above use their local indigenous language every day. It is how they greet one another and conduct the daily business of life. This is truer in rural areas, where 83% of the population are using indigenous languages every day compared with just over one-third, 34%, of people living in urban centers.

Luganville in particular has a very small proportion of the population using their indigenous languages every day. More than a quarter, 28%, of the people in the northern town do not know how to speak an indigenous language, far greater than the average of just 7% of the national population without the ability to speak at least one indigenous language.

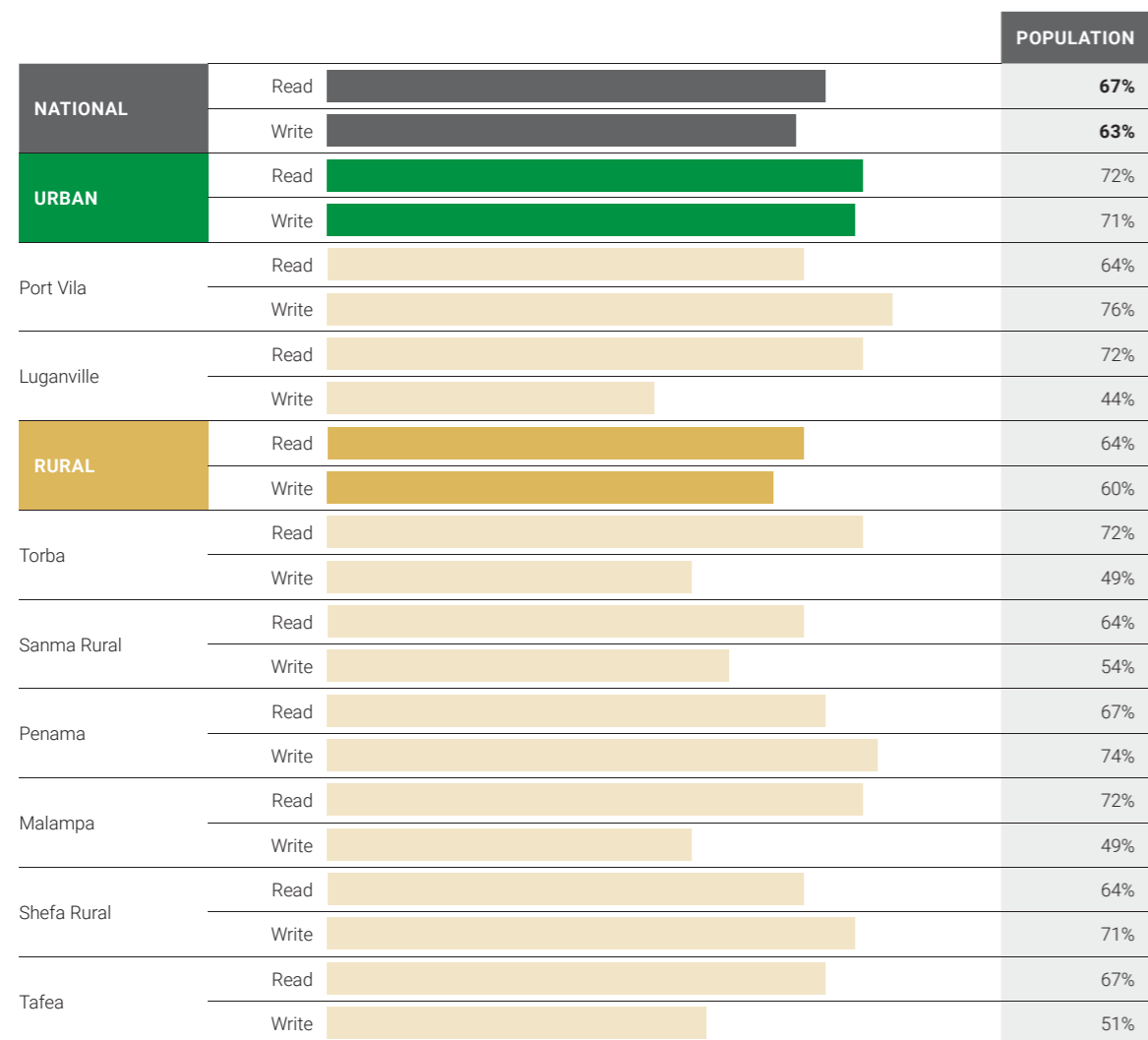
A majority of all age groups speak their indigenous languages every day, however, the decrease in frequency is evident among younger age cohorts. Youth ages 13-30 are more than three times as likely not to speak an indigenous language as are people over 30 years of age. A higher level of education is also related to a reduced ability to speak an indigenous language. This signals both the generational gap in language skills transfer and the negative relationship between formal education and traditional knowledge.

Figure 71 Change in % population speaking indigenous languages daily by region, 2012-2020



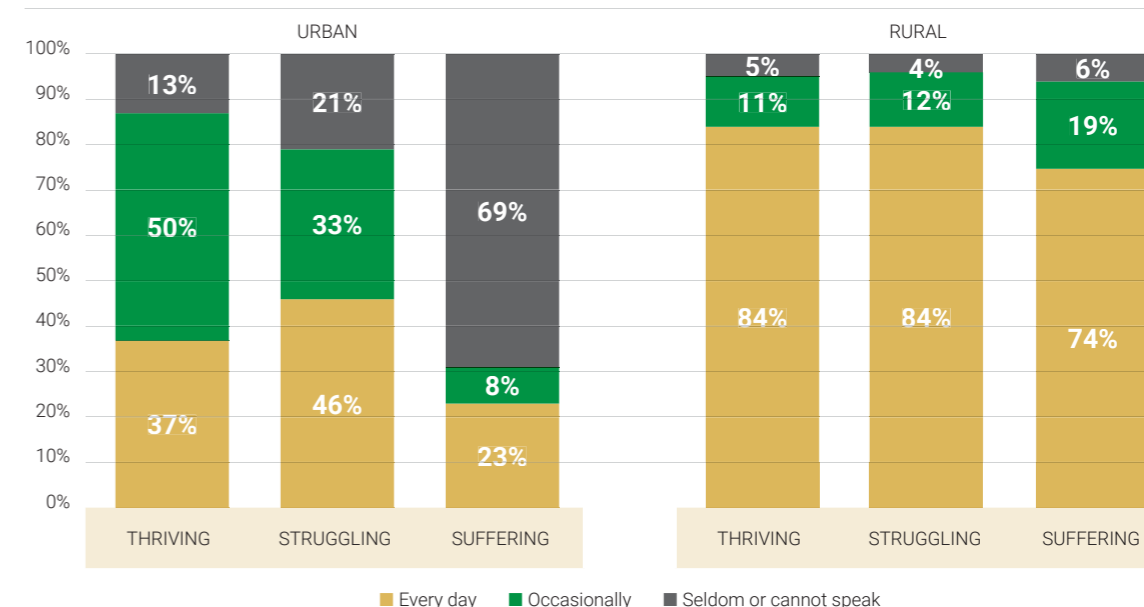
Inconsistent language influences exist from place to place in Vanuatu. Some places had schools introduced before others, and religious affiliation of the missionaries determined the language of instruction. Bible translators, volunteers, and academics have also changed the landscape of languages through the establishment of dictionaries, song and storybooks, and biblical texts in some of the many indigenous languages. Formal education and the phonetic skills learned when learning to write in Bislama have also helped to bring about a sense of literacy in indigenous languages in Vanuatu.

Figure 72 Perceived literacy, indigenous languages, age 12+, by area



We can see nationally that roughly two-thirds of the population in Vanuatu can either read or write in at least one indigenous language. Unlike literacy trends of the three official national languages in Vanuatu, indigenous language literacy skills can differ dramatically in some areas. For example, people living in Luganville, Torba, Malampa and Tafea Provinces all reported much higher capacity for reading in their indigenous language than for writing. People in Port Vila, Penama and rural Sanma Provinces reported just the opposite, with a much greater proportion with a perceived competence in writing but not in reading. This again may be due to differences in where indigenous languages have been used more in written form and where reading materials in local languages are more readily available.

Figure 73 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and frequency of use of indigenous language, urban and rural

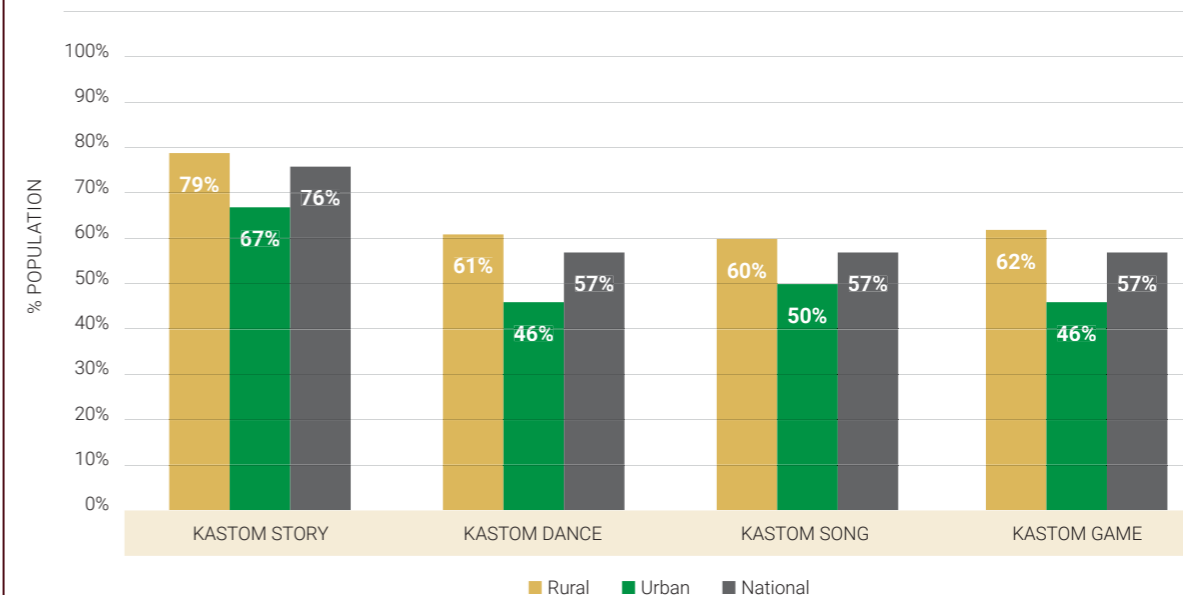


Thriving individuals in urban and rural settings are more likely to speak an indigenous language with some regularity. Individuals in urban centers benefit tremendously from being able to speak an indigenous language, whereas use of local languages is a requirement of daily life for most individuals living in rural areas. Programs that aim to preserve and promote indigenous languages in Vanuatu would positively influence people's well-being.

Traditional Knowledge

Indigenous languages are the vessels of traditional knowledge. Understanding, or being able to speak, an indigenous language uncovers only some of the message that is bound to social and cultural activities in communities in Vanuatu. These local languages are largely unwritten, having survived this long as living languages transferring information through story, song, dance and play.

Figure 74 Knowledge of traditional stories, dances, songs, and games, age 15+, by area



About three quarters, 76%, of all people in Vanuatu ages 15 and higher are able to recite at least one traditional story. Just over half, 57%, are able to perform at least one traditional dance, sing at least one traditional song, and explain the rules of at least one traditional children’s game. People living in urban centers were less likely to be able to do any of the tasks that would have been passed down with practical application. This is most likely one of the effects of having an urban population that is not learning to speak, or use, their indigenous languages.

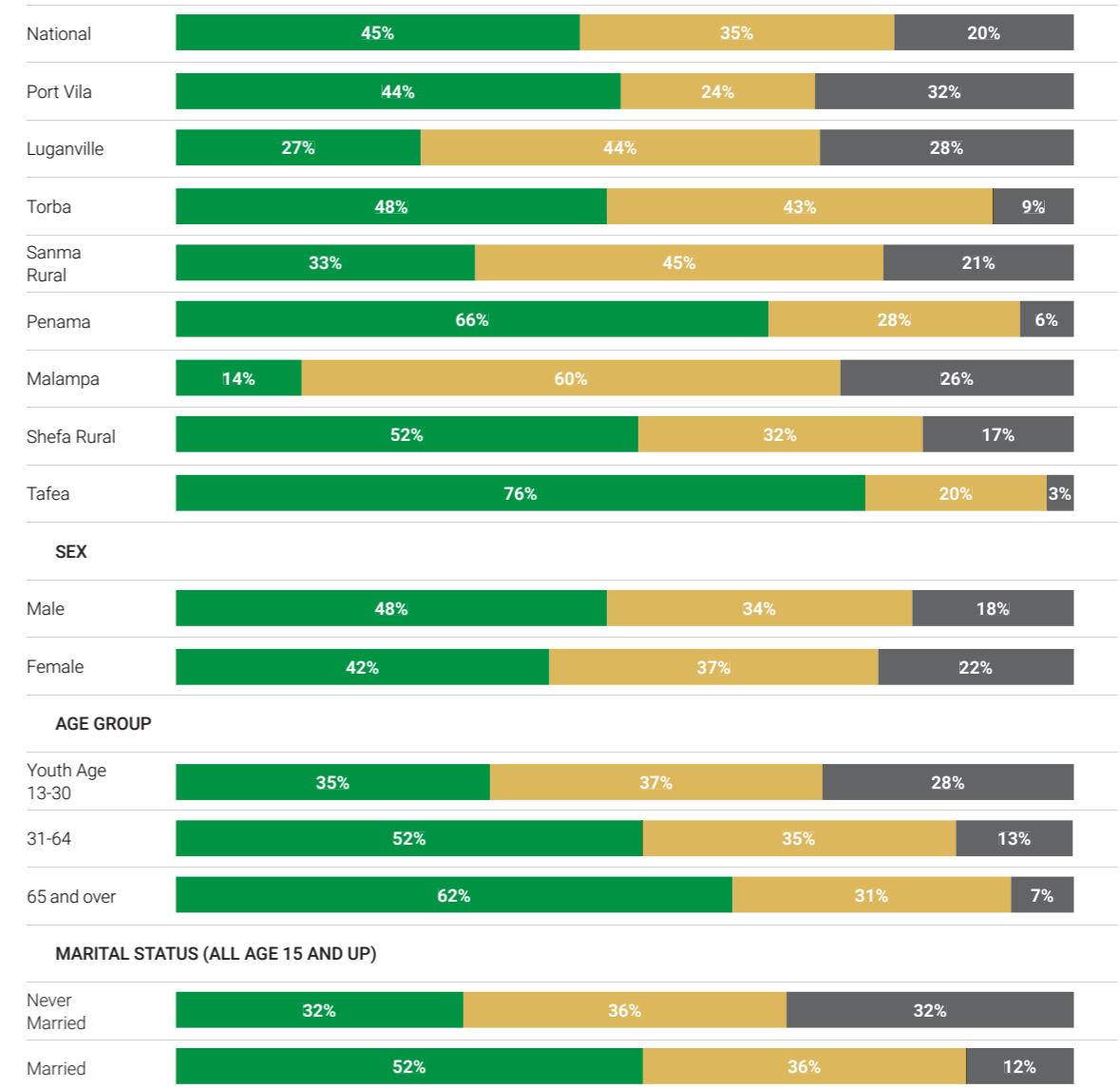
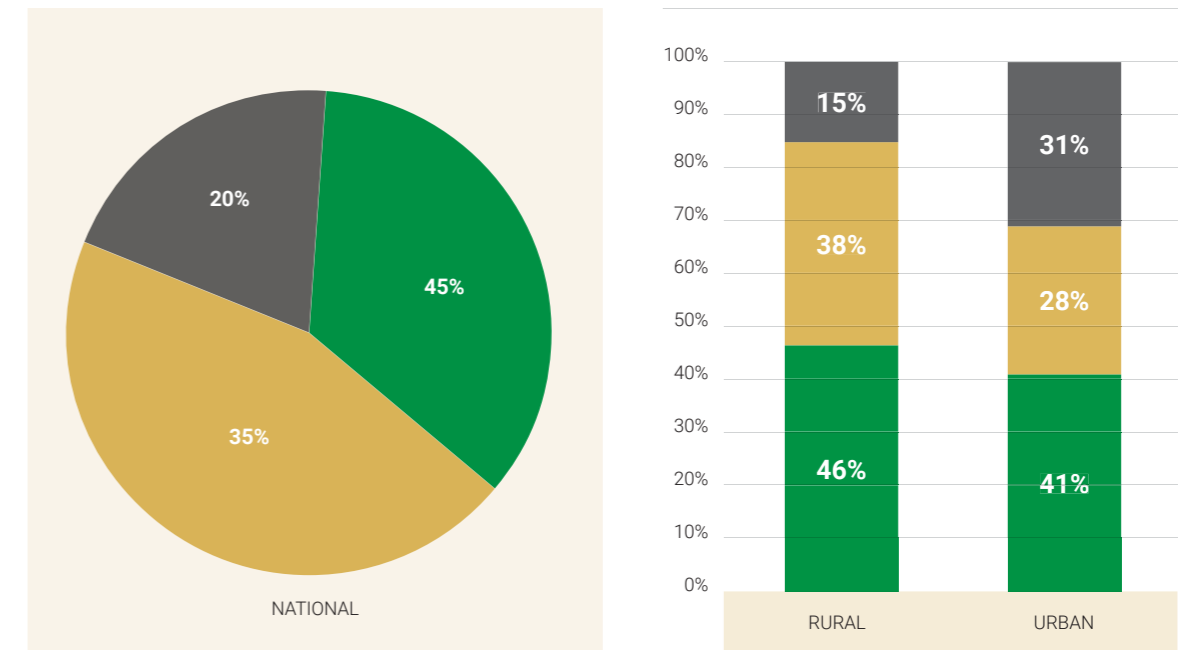
Table 10 Knowledge of traditional stories, dances, songs, and games, age 15+, by area

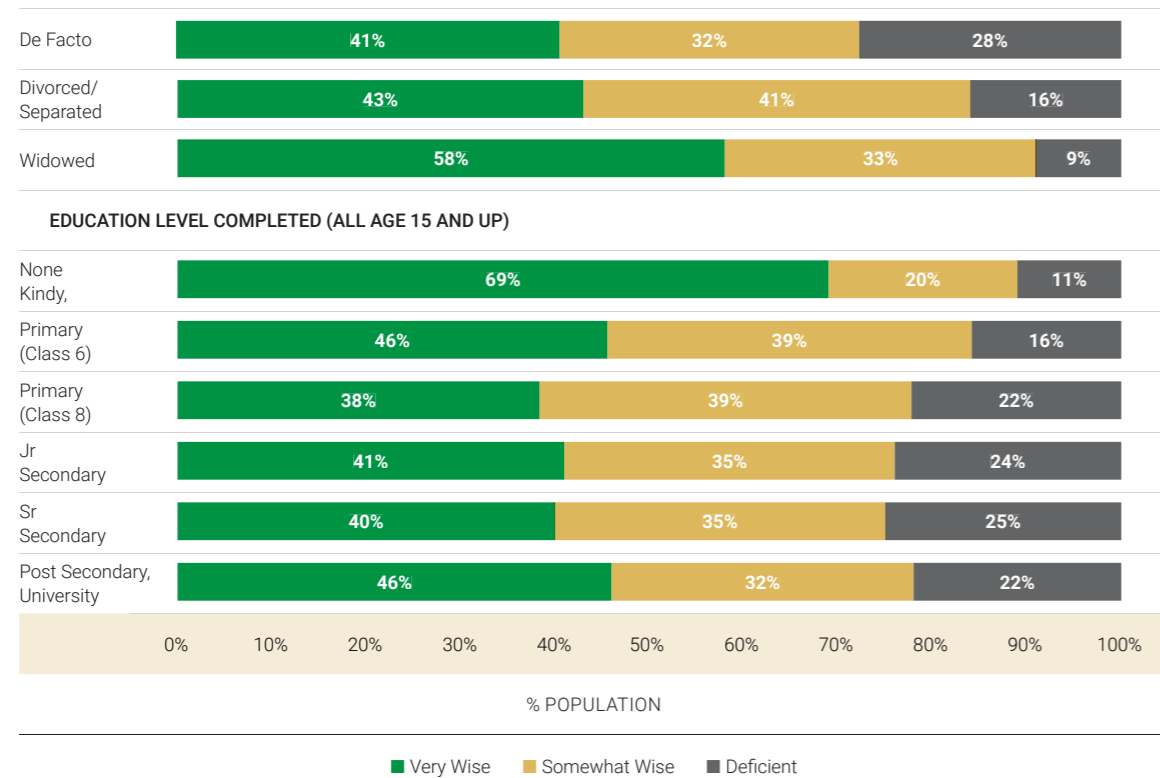
	KASTOM STORY	KASTOM DANCE	KASTOM SONG	KASTOM GAME
AREA				
NATIONAL	76%	57%	57%	57%
URBAN	67%	46%	50%	46%
Port Vila	67%	49%	53%	49%
Luganville	68%	35%	40%	36%
RURAL	79%	61%	60%	61%
Torba	82%	75%	60%	61%
Sanma Rural	72%	51%	48%	46%
Penama	85%	84%	78%	79%
Malampa	69%	27%	31%	44%
Shefa Rural	79%	62%	65%	63%
Tafea	94%	85%	85%	84%
SEX				
Male	78%	60%	60%	61%
Female	73%	53%	54%	54%
AGE GROUP				
Youth Age 13-30	66%	48%	47%	46%
31-64	83%	63%	64%	65%
65 and over	90%	71%	78%	75%

People living in Tafea and Penama Provinces are more likely to have had this knowledge transferred to them than are people living in other rural provinces or the two urban centers. These are areas where the population is still actively engaged in practicing ritual festivals that require communities coming together, singing, dancing and feasting. The communities in the south of Pentecost island continue to practice “Nagol”, or Land Diving, each year. While somewhat less regularly than the Nagol, traditional leaders on the island of Tanna continue to bring communities together when they feel it is needed for a massive festival known as the “Nikawiar”. Both of these examples include group dancing, singing, and feasting, along with traditional stories that help explain the purpose and objective of each element of these festivals.

People living in Luganville and Malampa Province have, by comparison, far less knowledge of traditional song, dance, and games when compared to other parts of the country. There are specialized dances, songs, and the stories that accompany them that are being lost to the new generation in these places.

Figure 75 Composite Traditional Knowledge of traditional stories, dances, songs, and games by area and group



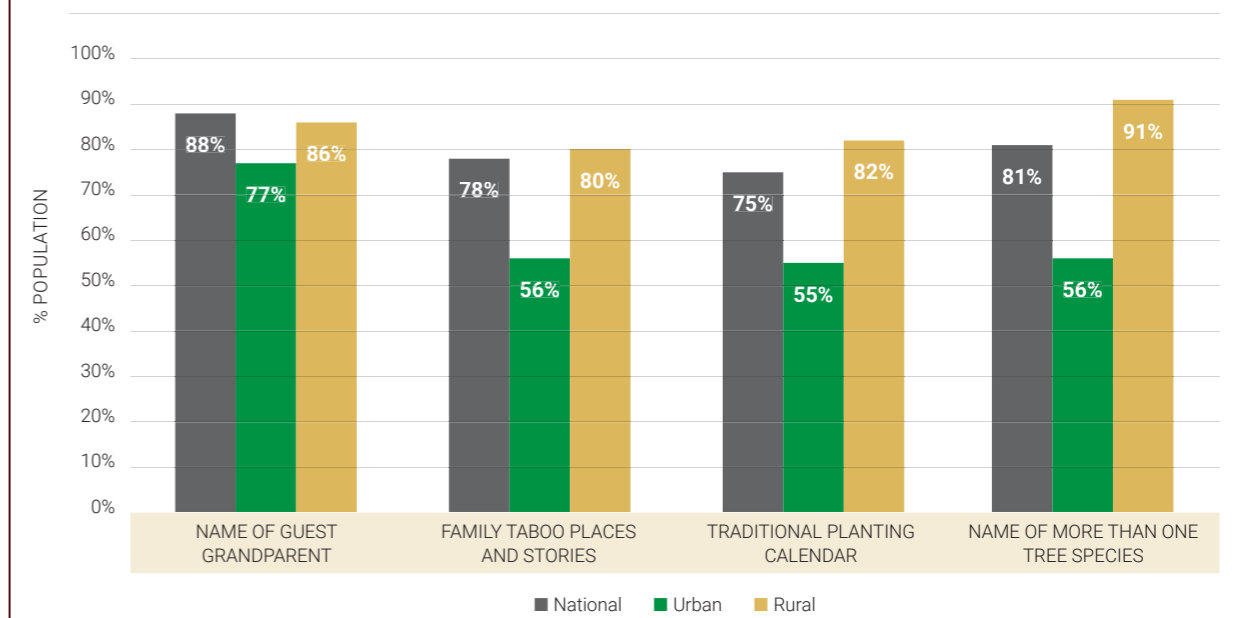


A composite indicator that identifies people that know at least one traditional story, dance, song, and game as “very wise” and those that know not one of any of the four learned practical traditional knowledge types as “deficient”. Nearly one-third, 31%, of people living in urban centers are fully deficient in their knowledge of traditional story, dance, song and games. More than one in five individuals living in rural Sanma and Malampa Provinces have a deficiency of traditional knowledge. People living in Tafea, Penama, and Torba Provinces are considered to have higher overall traditional wisdom, each with under 10% of the population aged 15 and over deficient in these knowledge areas. The vast majority, 96%, of people in Tafea Province exhibit knowledge in at least some of the four categories of living practical knowledge asked in the survey, making them the wisest among us.

Youth ages 15 to 30 are far less likely to have knowledge of at least some traditional stories, dances, songs and games than are older people in Vanuatu. More than a quarter, 28%, of the population of youth in Vanuatu are deficient in these knowledge areas. There is also a noticeable drop in the transfer of this knowledge to those that have completed a class 6 or higher education, noting that there is remarkably little difference in deficiency between those that completed primary school through class 8 and those that have completed post-secondary, tertiary, vocational or university training.

People grow up with opportunities to become rich in the knowledge of their family history, place, and natural environment. This is knowledge that is shared within the family or clan, rather than the traditional dance and song that tend to be practical for the larger culture group.

Figure 76 Knowledge of family history, place, and natural environment, age 15+, by area



Knowledge of family history, specifically one’s ability to name a great grandparent on their father or mother’s side of the family, was shared by the most ni-Vanuatu, 83%. This was the one knowledge area where the difference between urban and rural respondents was less than 10%. In all three other areas, a baseline knowledge of traditional lands and the natural environment is a requirement. If you do not know where you may have traditional lands, you are likely not sure on the places that are taboo and why. Furthermore, if you grow up in town you are less likely to be able to name different flora of the natural environment or know when in the year it is appropriate to plant/harvest crops following the traditional planting calendar.

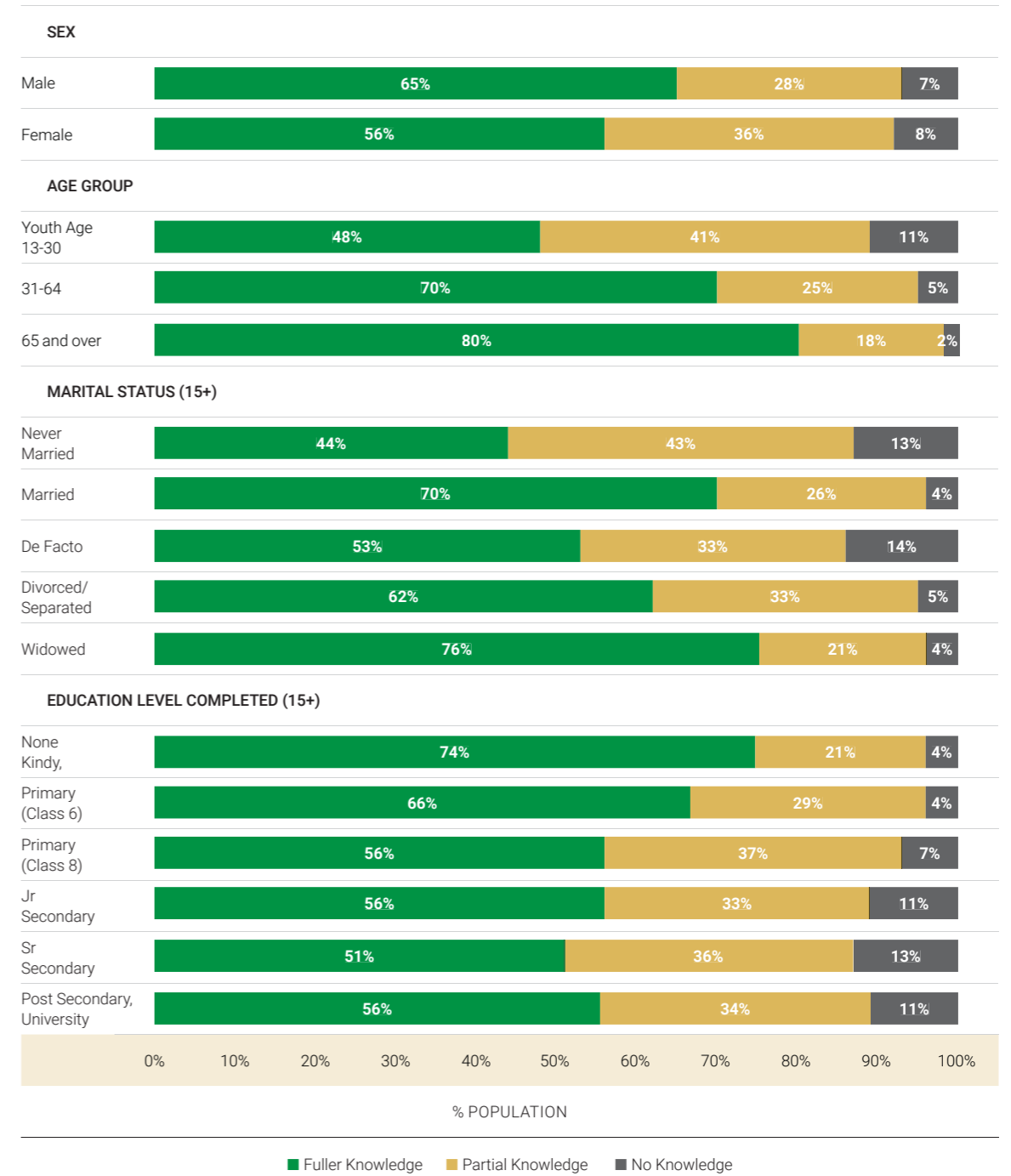
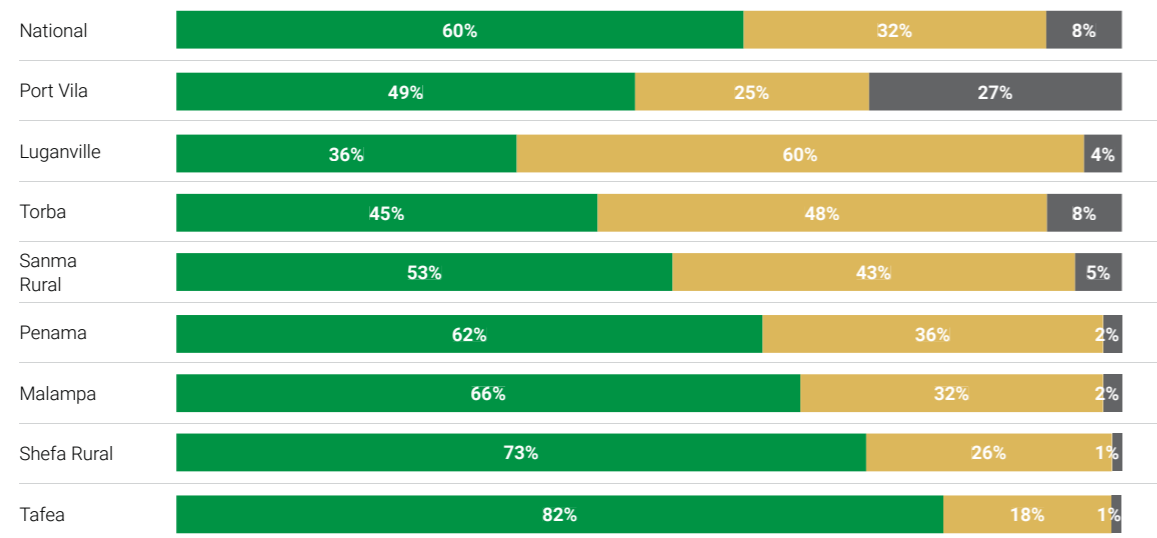
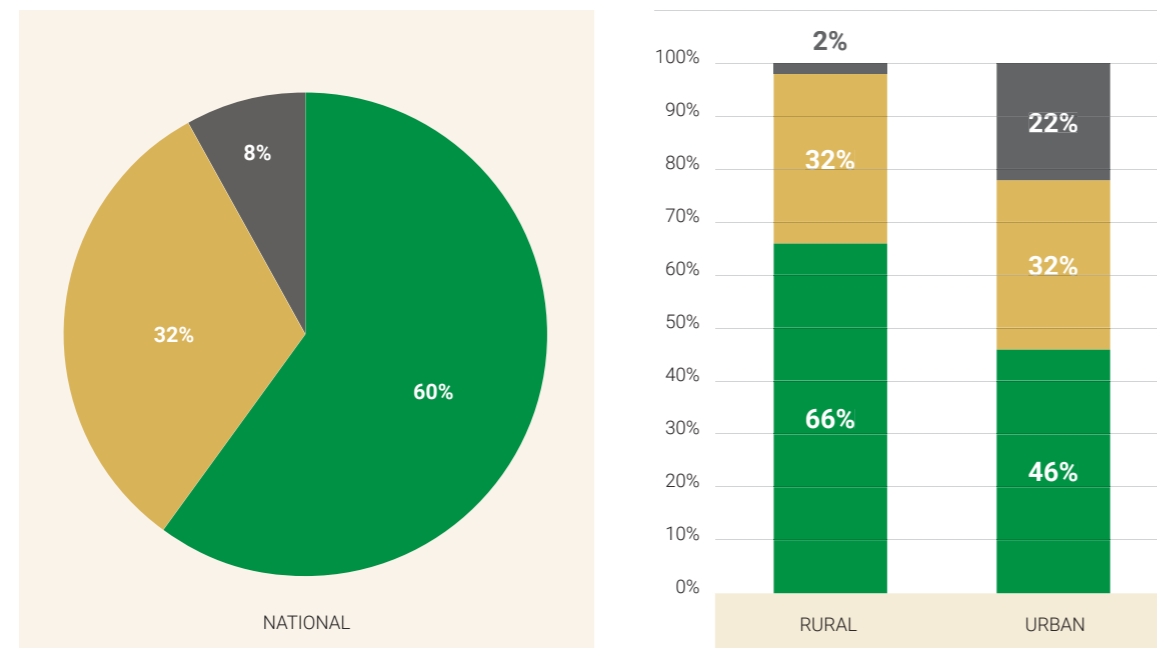
Table 11 Knowledge of family history, place, and natural environment, age 15+, by area and group

AREA	NAME OF GREAT GRANDPARENT	FAMILY TABOOS AND THEIR STORIES	TRADITIONAL PLANTING CALENDAR	NAME OF MORE THAN ONE TREE SPECIES
NATIONAL	83%	73%	75%	81%
URBAN	77%	56%	55%	56%
Port Vila	72%	53%	58%	57%
Luganville	94%	66%	43%	53%
RURAL	86%	80%	82%	91%
Torba	78%	66%	59%	82%
Sanma Rural	74%	73%	72%	86%
Penama	78%	80%	88%	94%
Malampa	90%	81%	84%	88%
Shefa Rural	94%	82%	83%	96%
Tafea	93%	90%	94%	93%
SEX				
Male	85%	78%	77%	83%
Female	82%	69%	73%	80%

AGE GROUP				
Youth Age 15-30	78%	64%	64%	73%
31-64	88%	80%	83%	87%
65 and over	92%	87%	90%	93%

People living in rural areas of Vanuatu, particularly those that have been based in rural areas a long while, have a better understanding of their natural environment. People living in urban centers with indigenous land rights spend less time on their land. In some cases, they have never visited their own customary lands. This helps explain why people living in town, for example, are less likely to be able to name more than one species of tree, or to have an understanding of when crops are planted and harvested in accordance with their traditional planting calendar.

Figure 77 Composite traditional knowledge of the family/tribe/clan, age 15+, by area and group



A composite indicator of traditional knowledge of family history, place, and the natural environment tells a different story than traditional knowledge of traditional stories, dances, songs and games. A majority, 60%, of people in Vanuatu ages 15 and higher are able to name a great grandparent; to understand the places on their family's customary lands that are taboo; to know when different crops are traditionally planted and harvested, and; to name more than one species of tree. The composite grouping labels these people as having "fuller knowledge".

A greater proportion of people in rural areas were found to have fuller knowledge of family history, place, and the natural environment—20% greater—than people living in the urban centers. When looking only at rural areas of the country, the trend from North to South runs from the lowest proportion of people with fuller knowledge of these things in Torba Province—less than half—to over 80% of the population in Tafea Province having a fuller knowledge.

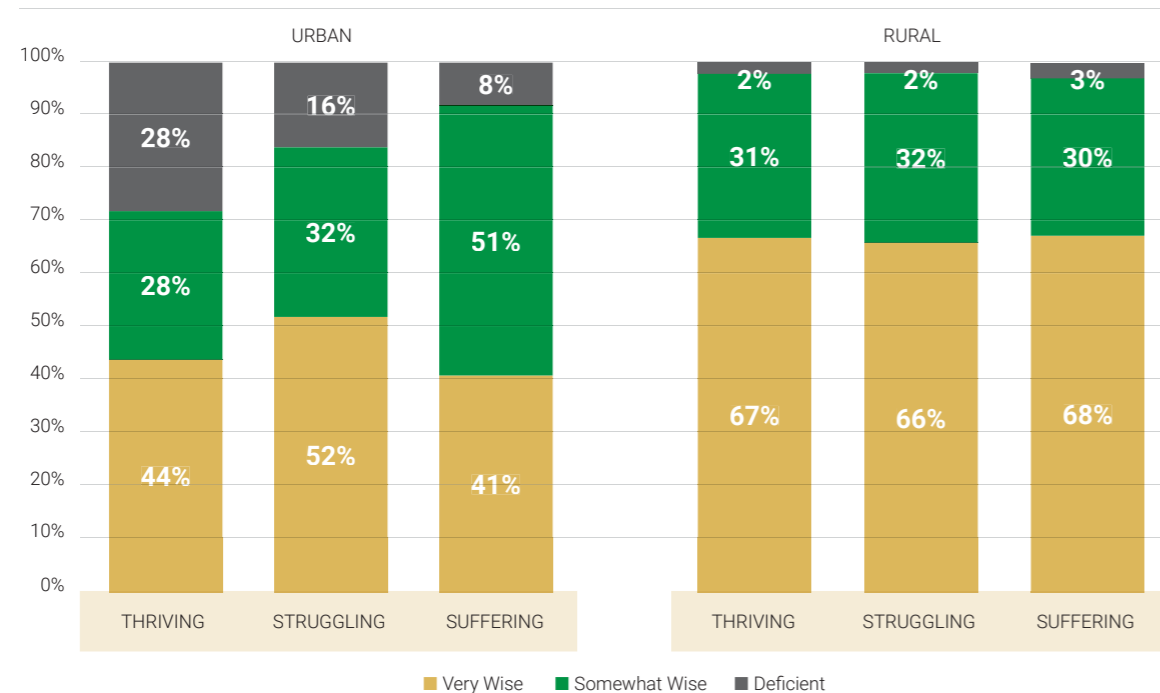
Port Vila residents were most likely to have no knowledge in the areas assessed. More than a quarter, 27%, of people living in Port Vila are unable to name a great grandparent. These same people, likely due to a disconnection to indigenous lands, were not sure of family taboo places and the stories that accompany them. They were unsurprisingly without an understanding of the traditional planting calendar, and unable to name more than one species of tree. These people have little to no traditional knowledge of their family history, place, and the natural environment.

A greater proportion of males ages 15 and higher have fuller knowledge of family history, place, and the natural environment than females. This may be due to the nature of the questions that ask information in relation to indigenous lands that some women and girls may not. When you consider both fuller and partial knowledge, the difference between the sexes is negligible.

Older people were more likely to have knowledge of family history, place, and the natural environment than youth between the ages of 15 and 30. The difference between age groups 31-64 and 65 and over is a more interesting distinction. By the time most people reach 30, this knowledge should have been acquired. The 10% difference in the proportion that have fuller knowledge between these last two age groupings suggests and overall loss of traditional knowledge from one generation to the next.

The connection between higher formal academic achievement and lower traditional knowledge outcomes is again shown in the chart above. Individuals completing class eight was far less likely to have a fuller knowledge of family history, place, and the natural environment than those that attained lower levels of education. Formal educational institutions can work to build traditional knowledge into existing agriculture and social studies curricula and to offer extracurricular programs that aim to address this knowledge gap.

Figure 78 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and traditional knowledge, urban rural



Traditional knowledge does not improve well-being in urban centers—more than a quarter of those that are thriving in Vanuatu’s two towns are deficient in their knowledge of family history, place, and the natural environment. Thriving, struggling, and suffering individuals in rural areas are about as likely to have the same levels of traditional knowledge, illustrating both that there is no significant effect of TK on well-being and that traditional knowledge is transmitted more universally in rural areas.

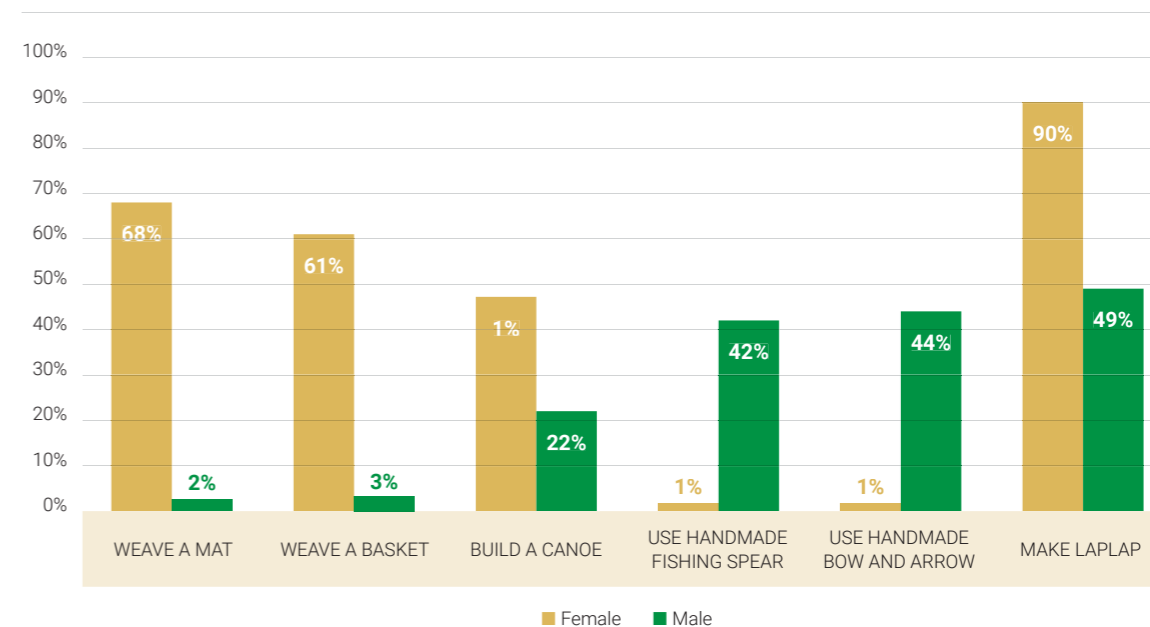
Traditional Production Skills

Possession of traditional production skills demonstrates the transfer of traditional knowledge that is practical for delivering basic needs such as food, housing, medicines, transportation, and more. The 2019-2020 NSDP Baseline Survey asked all people aged 15 if they were able to do, make, or perform 16 different skills that demonstrate traditional knowledge and economic self-reliance.

Table 12 Traditional Production Skills, age 15+

	WEAVE A MAT	WEAVE A BASKET	ASSEMBLE THATCH ROOFING	PRODUCE WALLS FROM LOCAL MATERIALS	BUILD CANOE	PADDLE A CANOE	FISH WITH A CANOE	USE HANDMADE FISHING SPEAR	USE HANDMADE BOW AND ARROW	PLANT FOOD CROPS	MAKE LAPLAP	ROASTING FOODS	RAISE PIGS FOR KASTOM	WOOD OR STONE CARVING	PREPARE TRADITIONAL MEDICINES	TRADITIONAL MASSAGE
NATIONAL	35%	32%	52%	39%	12%	37%	38%	24%	23%	88%	69%	87%	43%	8%	43%	17%
URBAN	23%	20%	23%	15%	7%	36%	33%	17%	17%	81%	58%	83%	23%	3%	24%	9%
Port Vila	23%	21%	20%	14%	6%	33%	30%	16%	17%	81%	62%	84%	23%	2%	21%	7%
Luganville	19%	14%	32%	20%	9%	49%	43%	19%	19%	82%	46%	81%	24%	7%	35%	18%
RURAL	40%	37%	63%	48%	13%	37%	39%	27%	25%	91%	74%	89%	50%	10%	50%	19%
Torba	47%	40%	72%	46%	17%	44%	36%	27%	29%	91%	61%	93%	20%	13%	36%	21%
Sanma Rural	38%	36%	62%	40%	12%	30%	37%	32%	30%	93%	78%	86%	42%	15%	59%	17%
Penama	44%	43%	82%	77%	17%	39%	43%	32%	40%	96%	93%	96%	64%	17%	52%	32%
Malampa	41%	32%	70%	46%	16%	30%	31%	16%	15%	91%	68%	89%	35%	5%	37%	8%
Shefa Rural	36%	34%	56%	46%	14%	58%	59%	38%	23%	96%	76%	92%	60%	9%	46%	27%
Tafea	41%	40%	48%	36%	6%	19%	20%	12%	19%	80%	55%	77%	60%	3%	63%	13%

Figure 79 Sex roles and traditional production skills



Men and women are favored for particular traditional production skills. Women and girls ages 15 and higher are much more likely to have weaving skills as well as the skill of making laplap³¹ than men and boys of that age. The reverse is true for canoe building, fishing with a handmade spear, and hunting with a local bow & arrow—all skills where men and boys ages 15 and over have an advantage. Although both sexes have more specialized skills, both benefit from the other's advantages within a household. Men and boys ages 15 and over may be less likely to have the skills necessary for producing woven mats, but are just the same required to produce them during some customary ceremonial exchanges. Most women may not have the skills to hunt and fish but depend on this protein for their health. These are just some examples that show the ways in which traditional production skills have built an interdependence between the sexes.

It is important to consider a set of basic traditional production skills at the household level. For example, if a member of a household has a skill for food preparation, all members of that household will benefit. From the production skills collected, we can select those that are essential for providing basic livelihood necessities. A composite indicator at the household level established if the household has the skill to produce shelter, either roofing or walls; the skill to weave mats; the skill to produce food; the skill to prepare food for consumption; and the skill to produce herbal medicines or perform traditional massage.

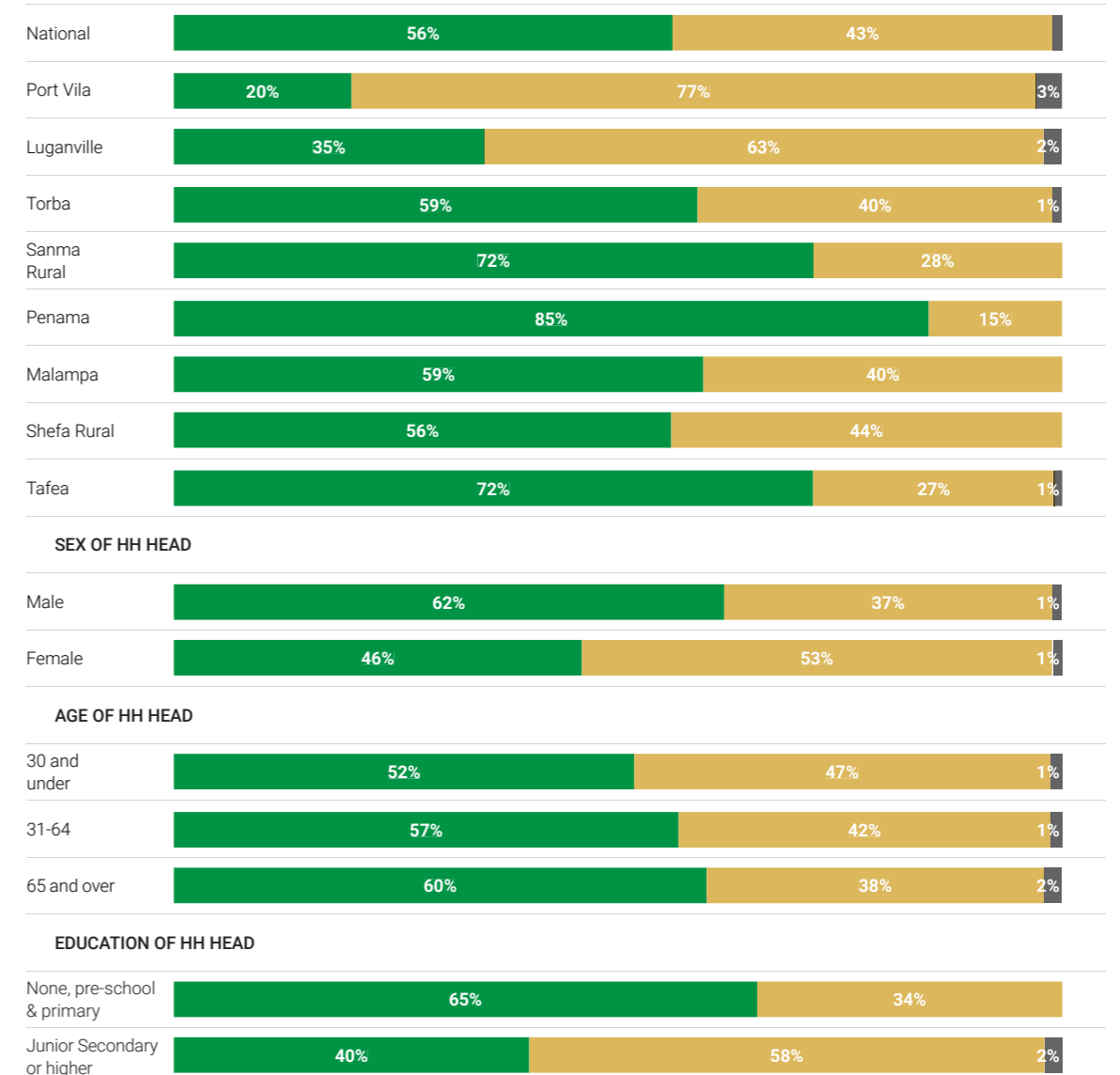
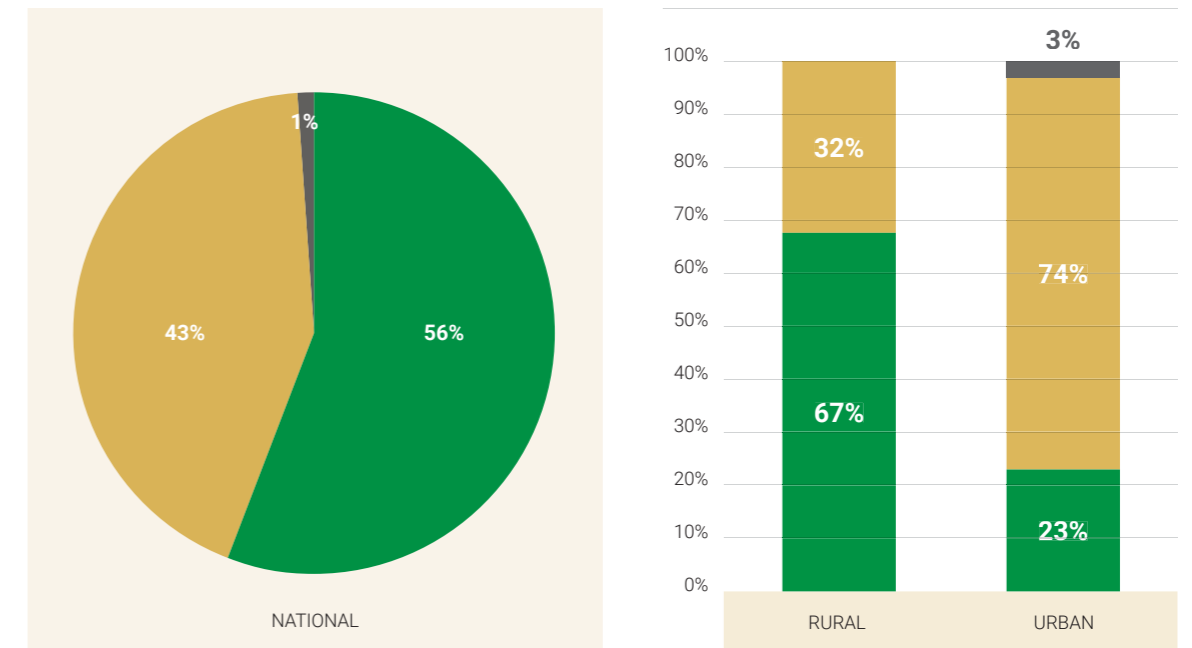
Shelter is necessary for protecting a family from the natural elements and it keeps people safe. Just over half, 52%, of people in Vanuatu ages 15 and over are able to assemble thatch roofing made from Natangura leaves or other local materials. Over one-third, 39%, are able to produce walls from local materials for use in housing. More than one third of people in Vanuatu ages 15 and higher, 35%, are able to weave mats that are traditionally used to sleep on, as traditional payments, and still used today as a protective barrier against the ground or floor.

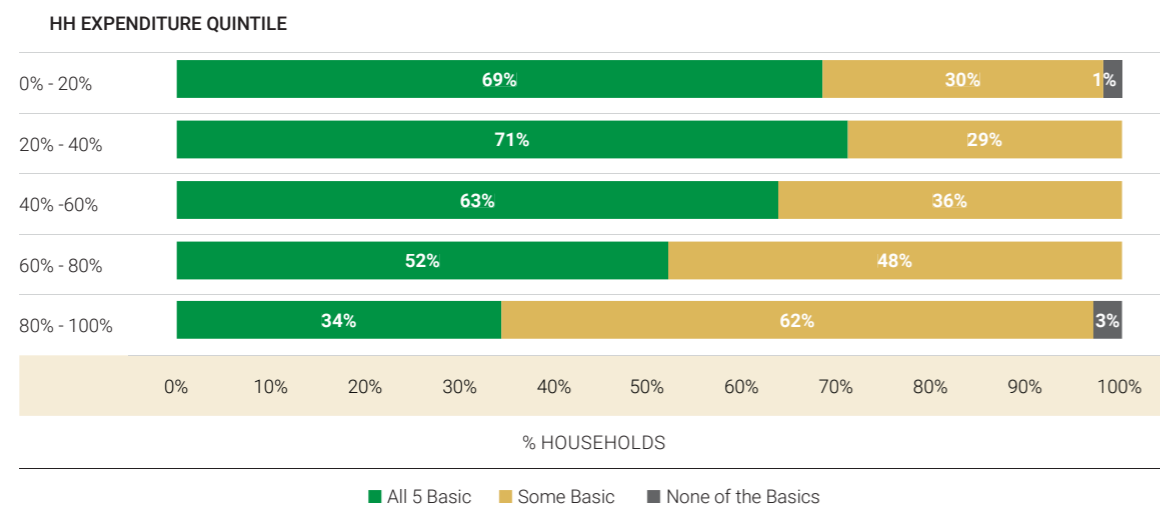
Food production and preparation are basic skills required for feeding a family. The vast majority, 88%, of people in Vanuatu ages 15 and over have gardening skills and are able to grow food crops. Roasting food on a fire is the most traditional form of food preparation. Nationally, 87% of people in Vanuatu ages 15 and over are able to roast foods for consumption.

Traditional healing practices, such as massage, and the production of leaf or herbal medicines are ways in which people have lived long, productive and healthy lives in Melanesia. Many of these skills are passed down through the family, sometimes skipping a generation. Less than half, 43%, of people in Vanuatu ages 15 and over are able to produce some leaf medicine, and just 17% report an ability to perform traditional massage.



Figure 80 % Households with members possessing all five basic production skills by area and group



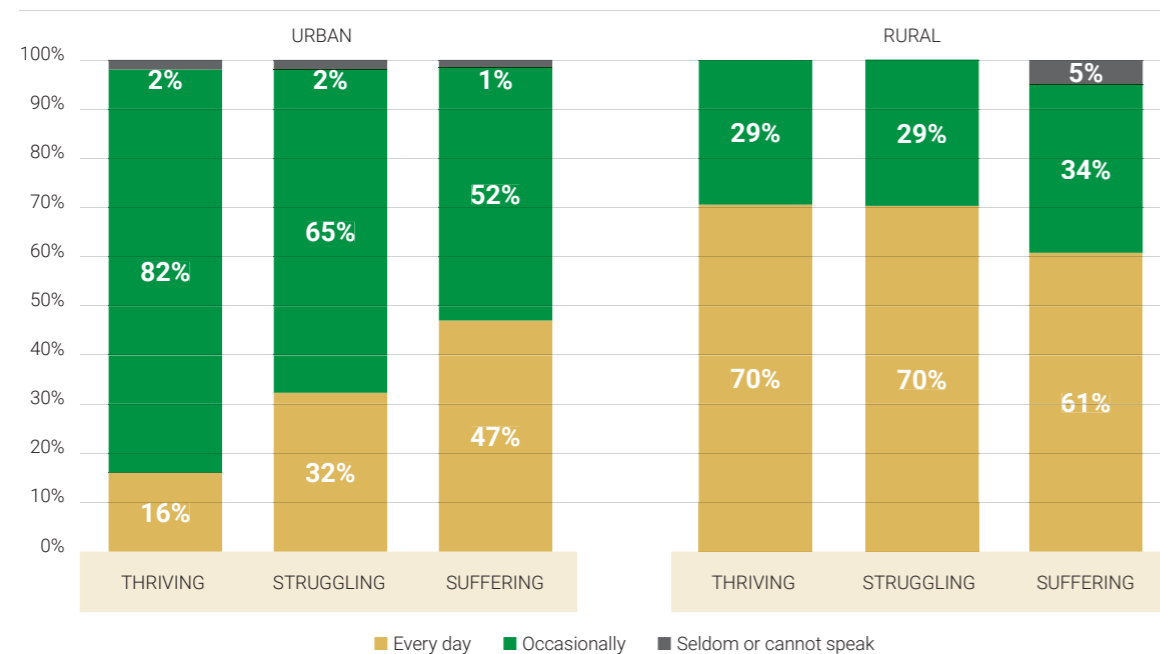


More than half of all households in Vanuatu have members with the ability to produce and fasten thatch roofing, produce walls from local materials, weave mats, grow food crops, roast food for consumption, and produce traditional medicines or perform healing massages. More than two-thirds, 67%, of households in rural areas have all five basic production skills covered, compared to just 23% of urban households. Households in Penama, Tafea, and rural Sanma Provinces were more likely to possess all five basic production skills than are households in other rural areas.

Households headed by men were more likely to have all five basic production skills than those headed by women. The age and education level of the household head shows younger households and households headed by people that have attained higher levels of formal education are less likely to have all five basic production skills. Household income, related to educational attainment, shows that households in higher expenditure quintiles are far less likely to possess all five basic production skills.

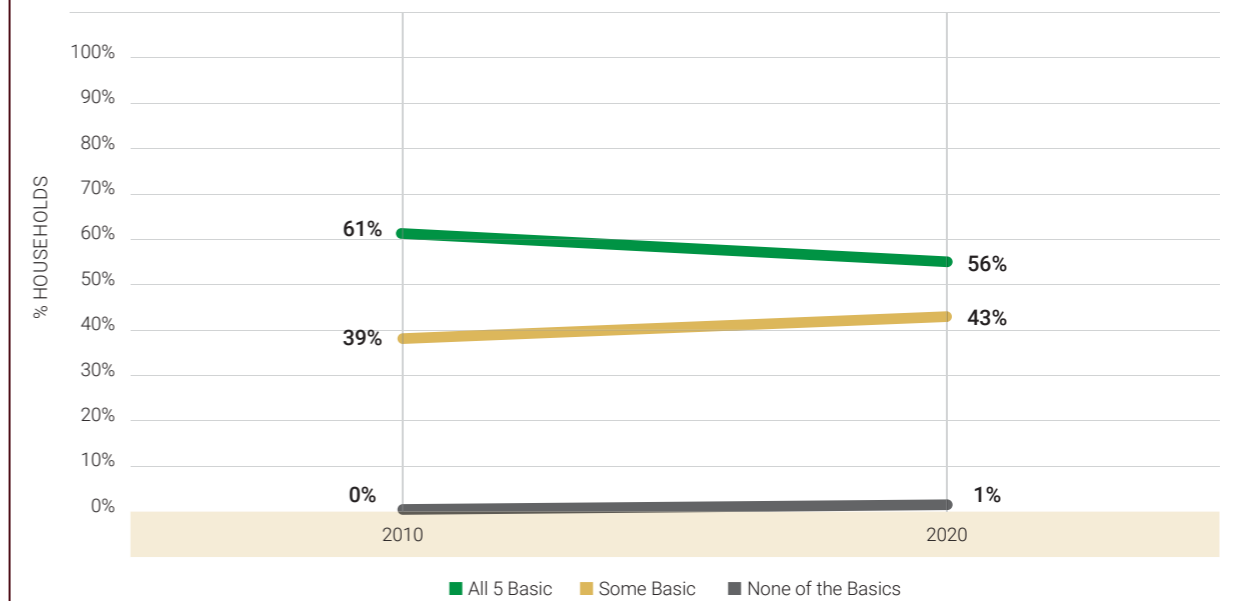
Households that do not possess all five basic production skills are likely able to access those skills from within their greater community if needed. For example, when re-building a dwelling, kitchen or toilet facility using local materials, the head of the household will likely seek assistance from others to help with construction and also to support with specific materials should they be needed.

Figure 81 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and living in households with basic production skills, urban and rural



A household's lack of possession of all five basic production skills does not inhibit the ability for an individual in that household to thrive in urban centers in Vanuatu—only 16% of thriving individuals ages 15 and higher in town live in households with members able to construct housing and produce and prepare foods and medicines. Basic production skills are more universally held in rural areas, however, and individuals in households with all five are slightly better off. This may change as housing materials move from renewable natural resources—bamboo, wild cane, thatch panels, local timber—to those that require modern construction skills as currently trending. It may also change as food sources move from home produced, seasonal, organic and healthy foods to those that are heavily processed and sold in stores. As these basic traditional skills are lost, people become more dependent on the cash economy. People that are less successful in the cash economy may be forced to live in housing that is less safe and to eat foods that are less healthy.

Figure 82 Change in households with basic production skills since 2010



The 2010 pilot study on well-being in Vanuatu captures traditional production skills at the household level and offers an opportunity to see the change in skills over time. The proportion of households in possession of all five basic traditional production skills reduced by 5% over the ten-year period.

There are many people in Vanuatu with skills to carve, design, weave, sew, and more that have used them to provide income. These learned skills are gifts bestowed upon them by those that carried the knowledge before them. In some cases, such as with carving rights on the islands of Ambrym and Malekula, the right to carve particular designs is paid for by each carver. Here we consider handicrafts handmade by people in Vanuatu. Weaving mats, baskets, fans and other items is the most common form of handicraft reported. Nearly one-quarter, 24%, of households in Vanuatu have members actively engaged in weaving handicrafts—31% in rural areas and just 5% in urban areas.

Academic Participation and Attainment

Academic training and scholarship serve to increase our knowledge base and to fortify our understanding of the world around us. Pre-schools, schools, and after school programs occupy most of the time of young people starting from the age of five. Educators develop and conduct programs in mathematics, earth and life sciences, social studies and more, with a goal to produce a well-rounded intelligent population. Vocational and technical institutions provide opportunities for furthering one's training in a particular skill area, and university opportunities in Vanuatu and abroad help sharpen skills and produce young professionals in various disciplines.

Figure 83 % Population age 25+ that have ever attended school

	POPULATION
NATIONAL	91%
URBAN	99%
Port Vila	99%
Luganville	98%
RURAL	88%
Torba	80%
Sanma Rural	85%
Penama	83%
Malampa	98%
Shefa Rural	97%
Tafea	69%

The vast majority, 91%, of the adult population ages 25 and over have, at some point, attended school or kindergarten. Some level of schooling is nearly universal in urban centers. A significant proportion, 31%, of the adult population of Tafea Province have never attended school or kindy, far higher than the rural average of 22% of the adult population having never attended school or kindy.

Table 13 Highest education level attained, population age 25+, by area and group

	NEVER SCHOOLED	KINDY	PRIMARY (CLASS 1-8)	JR SECONDARY (CLASS 9-10)	Sr SECONDARY (CLASS 11-14)	POST SECONDARY NON TERTIARY (USP FOUNDATION)	UNIVERSITY	VOCATIONAL/ TECHNICAL INST.
NATIONAL	9%	0%	52%	18%	13%	2%	4%	2%
URBAN	1%	0%	36%	24%	21%	5%	8%	4%
Port Vila	1%	0%	34%	24%	21%	5%	9%	5%
Luganville	1%	0%	44%	23%	19%	4%	5%	2%
RURAL	12%	0%	59%	15%	10%	1%	2%	2%
AREA Torba	18%	1%	62%	8%	7%	1%	1%	0%
Sanma Rural	15%	0%	61%	13%	9%	1%	1%	1%
Penama	16%	1%	61%	12%	7%	1%	1%	1%
Malampa	2%	1%	73%	15%	7%	1%	1%	0%
Shefa Rural	2%	0%	51%	21%	15%	2%	3%	4%
Tafea	30%	1%	46%	12%	8%	1%	1%	2%
SEX Male	7%	0%	50%	19%	13%	2%	4%	3%
Female	10%	0%	54%	16%	12%	2%	3%	2%
AGE Youth Age 25-30	3%	0%	39%	25%	21%	4%	4%	3%
31-64	8%	0%	55%	17%	11%	2%	4%	2%
65 and over	26%	1%	61%	6%	2%	0%	1%	2%

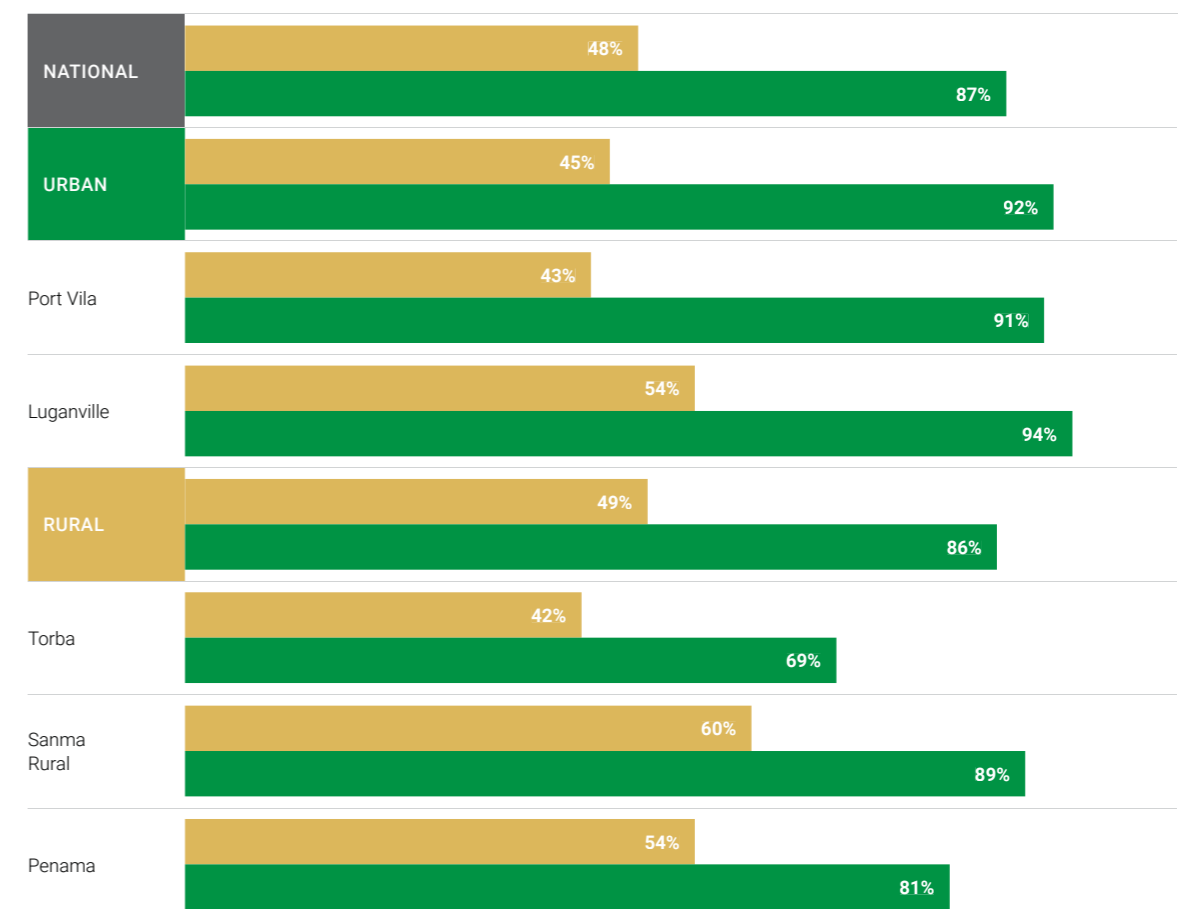
MARITAL STATUS	Never Married	6%	0%	34%	22%	23%	4%	4%	3%
Married	10%	0%	57%	16%	10%	2%	4%	2%	
De Facto	2%	0%	37%	26%	22%	4%	1%	2%	
Divorced/ Separated	4%	0%	49%	20%	17%	2%	5%	3%	
Widowed	19%	1%	62%	11%	2%	1%	1%	2%	

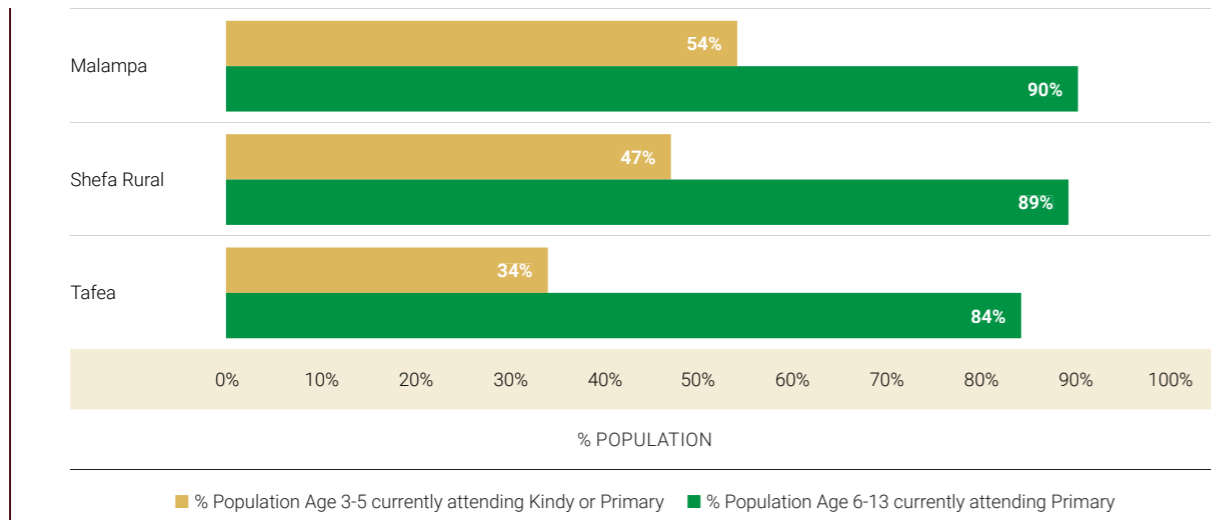
Just over half, 52%, of the adult population ages 25 and over reported their highest level of educational attainment in primary grades 1-8. Just under one-third, 31%, of adults ages 25 and over attained junior or senior secondary levels in grades 9-14. At 45%, junior and senior high school attainment was more common for adults living in urban centers, compared to just 25% of adults living in rural areas. This difference is evident in post-secondary and university levels as well, with 13% of urban adults and 3% of rural adults reaching these highest levels of education. There remains an inequality in educational opportunities between those living in town and those living in rural areas.

Adult women are more likely to have never attended school or to have attained primary level education than are adult men. Nearly two-thirds of adult women, 64%, either never attended school or attained some level of primary education, compared to 57% of adult men. The vast majority, 88%, of adults ages 65 and over either never attended school or attained at least some primary level education grades 1-8.

Current education refers to those that are enrolled or that are attending a level of formal education currently. Indicators of attendance in Kindergarten and primary school among appropriately aged children helps illustrate where there is work to be done to improve net enrolment.

Figure 84 Kindy and Primary attended rates





The government, through awareness campaigns, stresses the need for children to begin early education in kindy by the age of five. Some children enter primary school when they are five years old. Priority Objective Society 2.1 sets out to ensure every child, regardless of gender, location, educational needs or circumstances has access to the education system in Vanuatu.

Less than half, 48%, of children ages 3-5 are currently attending Kindergarten or primary school. A majority of children ages 3-5 in rural Sanma Province (60%), Luganville, Penama Province, and Malampa Province (all 54%) attends early childhood education.

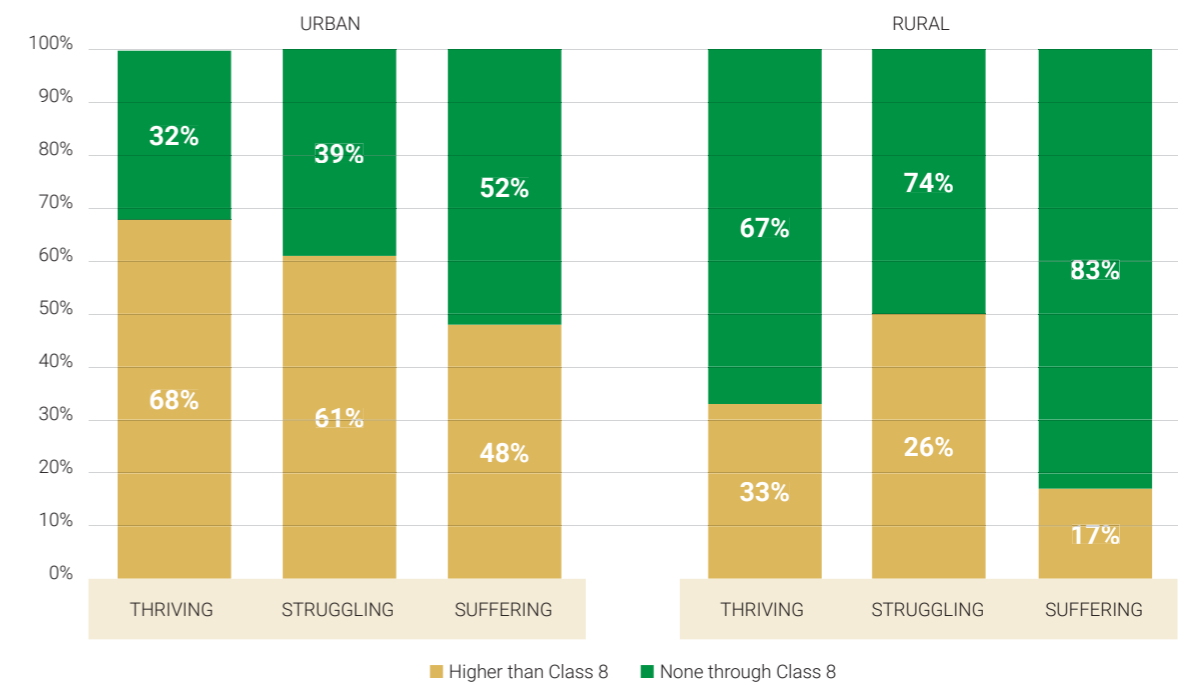
Children should be enrolled and attending primary school in class 1 starting at the age of six and finishing class 8 at the age of 13. The vast majority of children within this age group, 87%, are currently attending primary school classes 1 through 8. Less than 70% of children age 6-13 in Torba Province are currently attending primary school. This may be due to a relative lack of access to formal primary education facilities in the northernmost Province.

Adult education is important—we are never too old to learn. The United Nations established a target within the Sustainable Development Goal 4 to ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable, quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university, by 2030. Just 16% of youth and adults between the ages of 13 and 60 are currently enrolled in formal or non-formal programs.

There does appear to be equal opportunity between the sexes in youth and adult formal and non-formal education. Almost all of those enrolled are youth between the ages of 13-30, and never married.



Figure 85 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and educational attainment

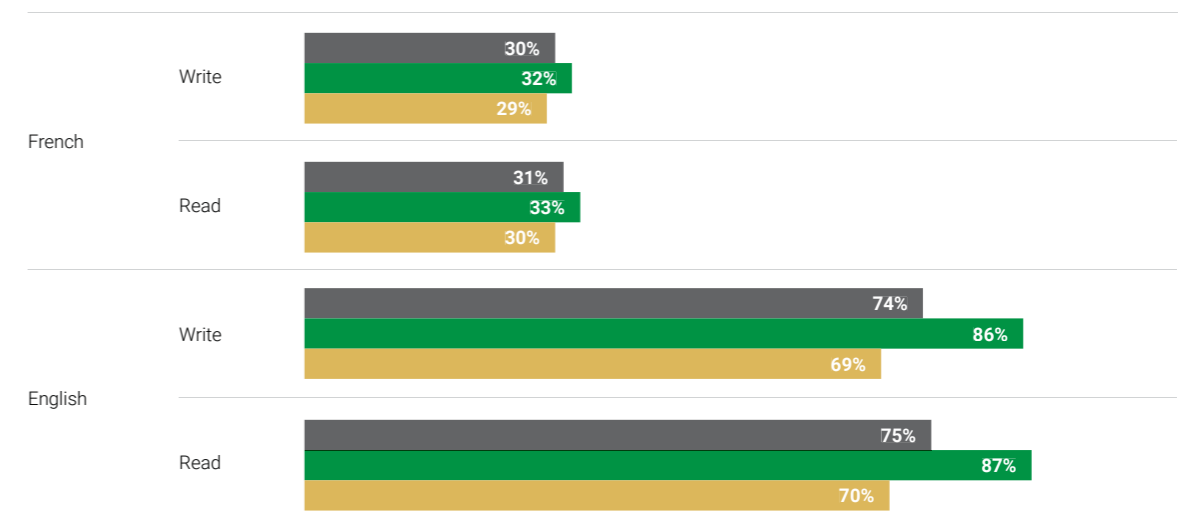


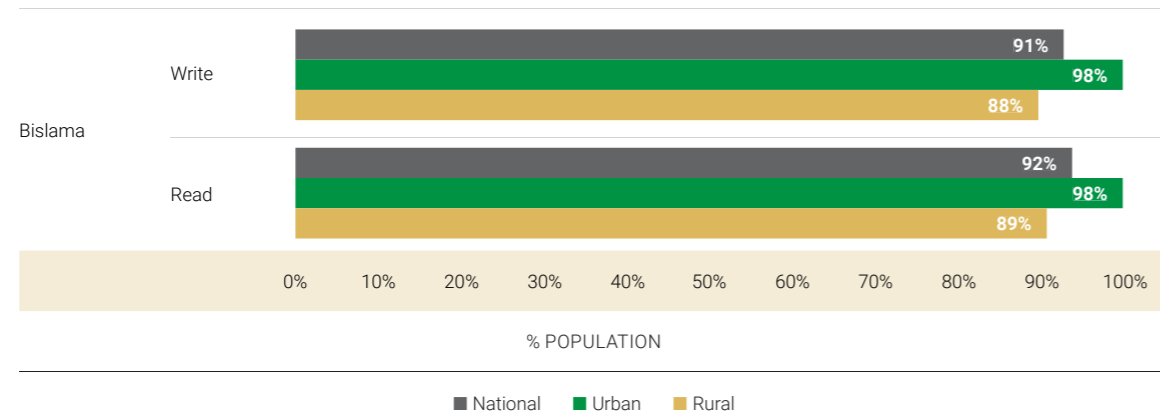
Thriving individuals in urban and rural areas are more likely to have attained at least a secondary level of formal education than those that are struggling or suffering. Improving access to higher levels of education will have positive well-being impacts in all areas of the country.

Literacy

Perceptions of literacy are an important indication of the presence or absence of reading and writing skills. Vanuatu has three official languages—Bislama, English, and French—and a school system that enables bi-lingual training, with either English or French as the main language of instruction. Bislama is not a formalized language taught in schools, however, it remains the most universally used language in the country.

Figure 86 % Population age 12+ able to read and write in 3 official languages by area

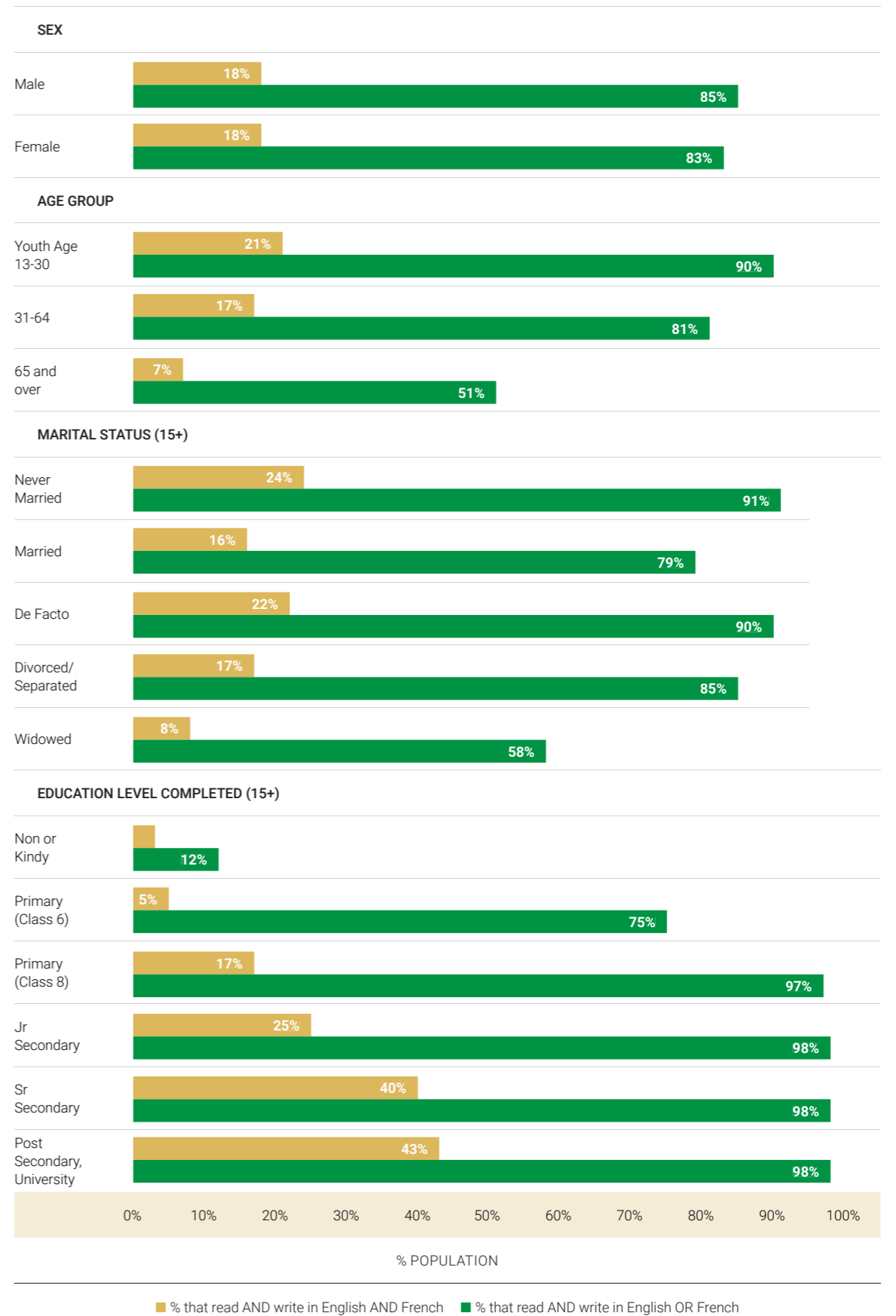
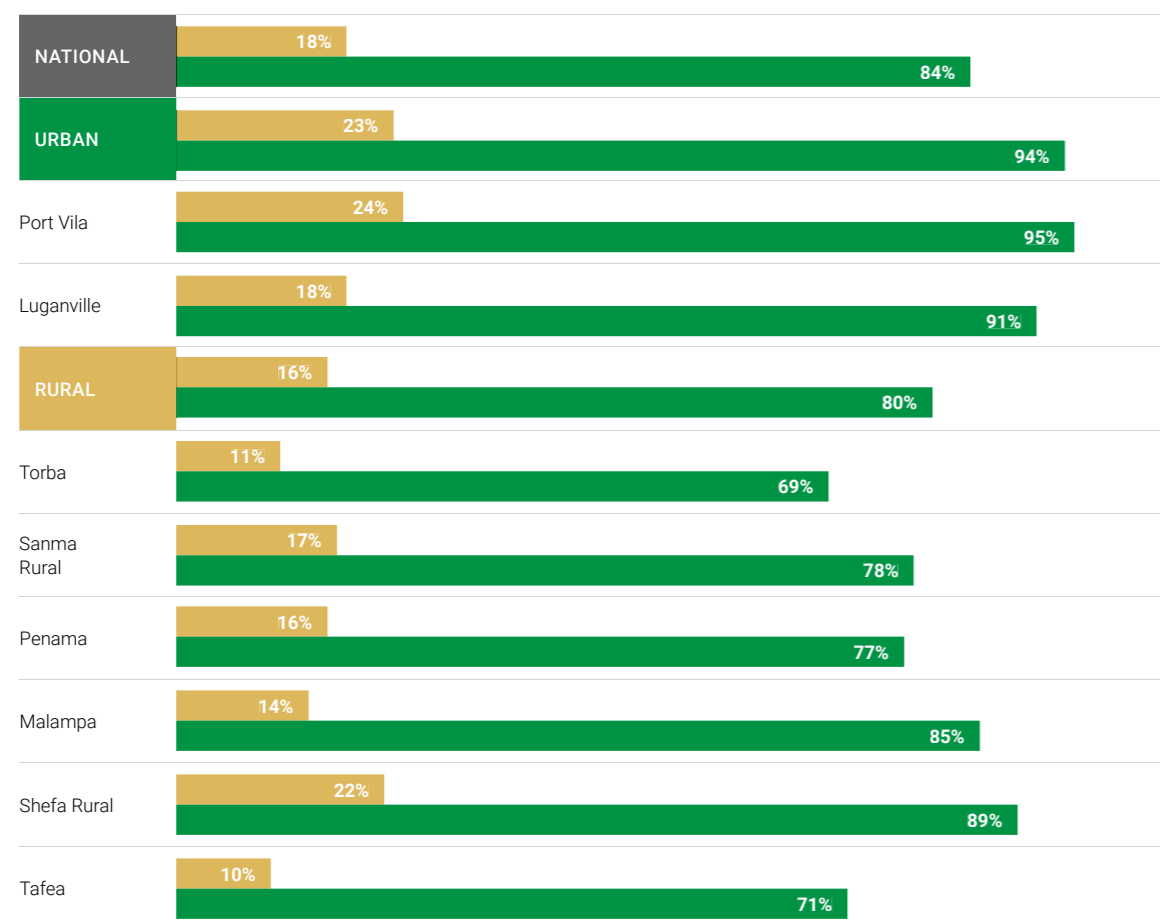




There are more Anglophone schools in Vanuatu than Francophone schools. Newsprint, television and social media in Vanuatu are predominantly in English. French still flourishes in Vanuatu with nearly one-third, 30%, of the population reporting an ability to read or write in the once dominant language. Bislama, despite the lack of opportunities for formal training, helps bridge communication across over 100 different language groups and between the two other official languages. More people in Vanuatu report an ability to read and write in Bislama than either English or French.

Perceived literacy helps inform UN SDG Target 4.6 which aims to ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy by the year 2030.

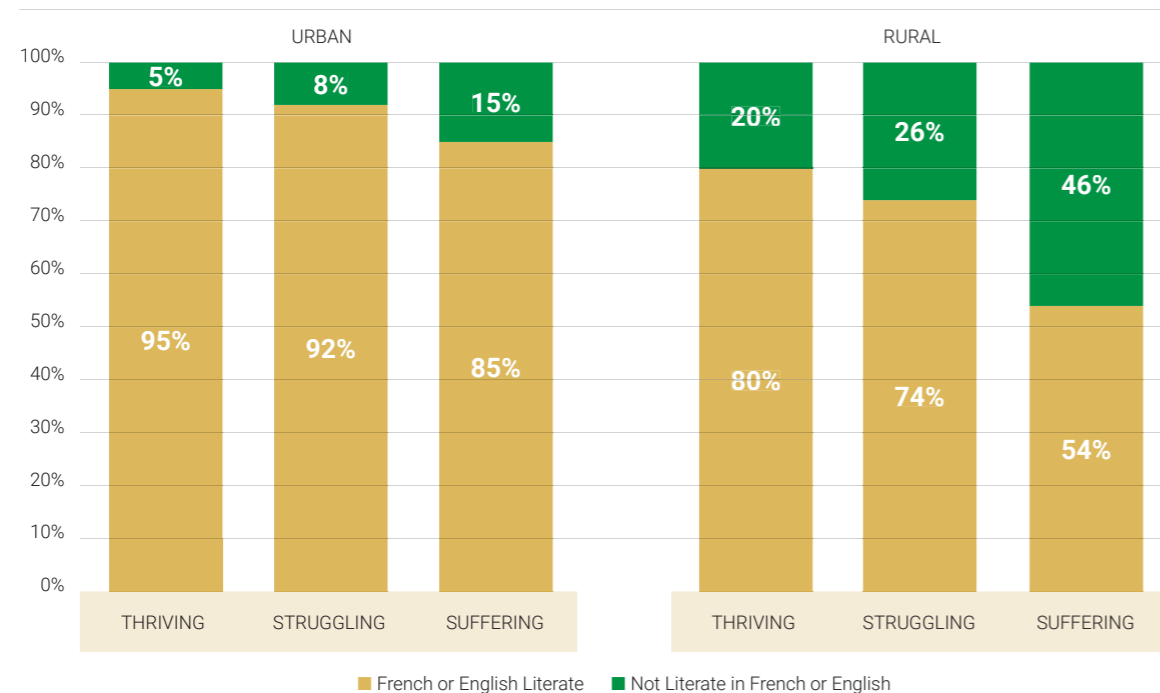
Figure 87 % Population age 12+ with perceived literacy in French and/or English by area and group



The national perceived prevalence of literacy stands at 84% of those ages 12 and higher in either English or French. A credit to Vanuatu's natural advantage in languages, 18% of ni-Vanuatu reported the ability to read and write in both English and French. Perceived literacy is higher among people living in urban centers than those in rural areas. Fewer people living in Torba and Tafea Provinces reported an ability to read or write in French or English.

The prevalence of perceived literacy in either English or French drops considerably from 90% of those under the age of 30 to 81% for those between the ages of 31-64 and just over half, 51%, of people age 65 and over. People lose their ability to read or write in languages they do not regularly use over time. Completion of primary school through class 8 dramatically increases the chance that one has developed an ability to read and write in either French or English in Vanuatu. Completion of senior secondary classes 12-14 enhances the opportunity for many to develop the ability to read and write in both French and English in Vanuatu.

Figure 88 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and perceived literacy in English or French



Literacy in English or French has a positive impact on well-being and provides greater opportunities to thrive, particularly in rural parts of the country. Improvements in literacy training through formal education will reflect positively on well-being in the long term.

Well-being and Knowledge

The data collected in the NSDP Baseline Survey shows a positive impact on well-being for individuals that learn to speak an indigenous language and speak their language regularly. Programs that promote the learning and use of indigenous languages, such as the current Early Childhood Education Policy that promotes vernacular training, provide opportunities for individuals to thrive in Vanuatu. Formal education through secondary levels and literacy in English or French are also beneficial to well-being in all settings.

Traditional knowledge is more prominent in rural areas and, subsequently, thriving individuals in rural areas are slightly more likely to know about their family history, place, and their natural environment. Likewise, production skills for producing and preparing foods, constructing shelter and producing medicines are predominantly beneficial to the well-being of individuals living in rural areas. There is no impact on well-being from the possession of traditional knowledge or traditional production skills for individuals in urban centers, representing just over a quarter of the population of Vanuatu.

4 PROFILE OF PHYSICAL HEALTH

Introduction

Physical health and well-being are interlinked. A recent study on SWB collections in Ecuador found happiness to be the main predictor of self-reported health, more significant than having an illness, being involved in healthy activities (sports), or having health care³². The Vanuatu Government and NGO partners, through official programming and outreach, advocate for preventative health measures such as eating healthy foods, exercise, and reducing opportunities for malarial infection hot spots by eliminating open stagnant water, keeping grass cut short and using bed nets. A healthy individual is more productive and contributes more to both the traditional and cash economies, and a productive individual, as explored in Chapter 2, is a happy individual. Policies that make the population happy are likely to have positive health impacts and, by the transitive property, if a policy is good for health it is good for productivity. This chapter touches on key factors related to health that SWB may act as a predictor. It also looks at the well-being impacts of developing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and having physical limitations, or disabilities.

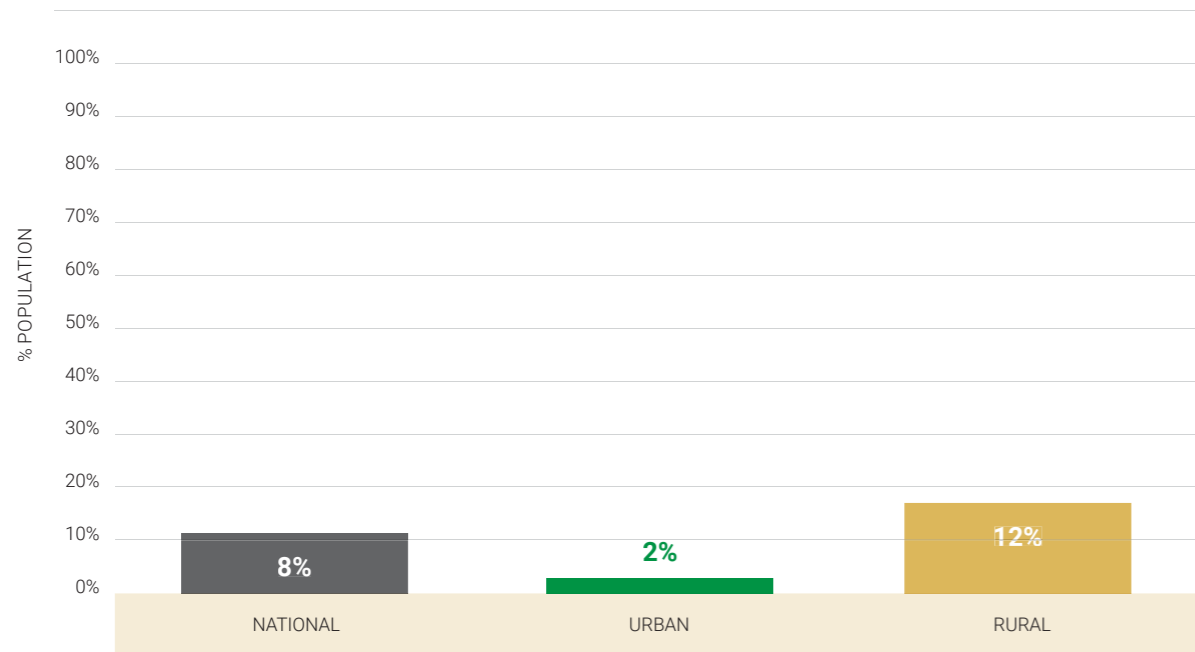
Food Security

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization have regularly monitored the prevalence of undernourishment since the year 2000, helping to illustrate the state of food security and nutrition in countries around the world. Undernourishment is the percentage of the population whose dietary energy intake is lower than the amount of energy an individual needs to be in good health and have an active life. The UN endorsed “prevalence of undernourishment” as a key indicator for SDG 2 in 2015 with the goal to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.



³² Acosta-González, H.N., Marcenaro-Gutiérrez, O.D. The Relationship Between Subjective Well-Being and Self-Reported Health: Evidence from Ecuador. *Applied Research Quality Life* (2020).

Figure 89 Prevalence of Undernourishment



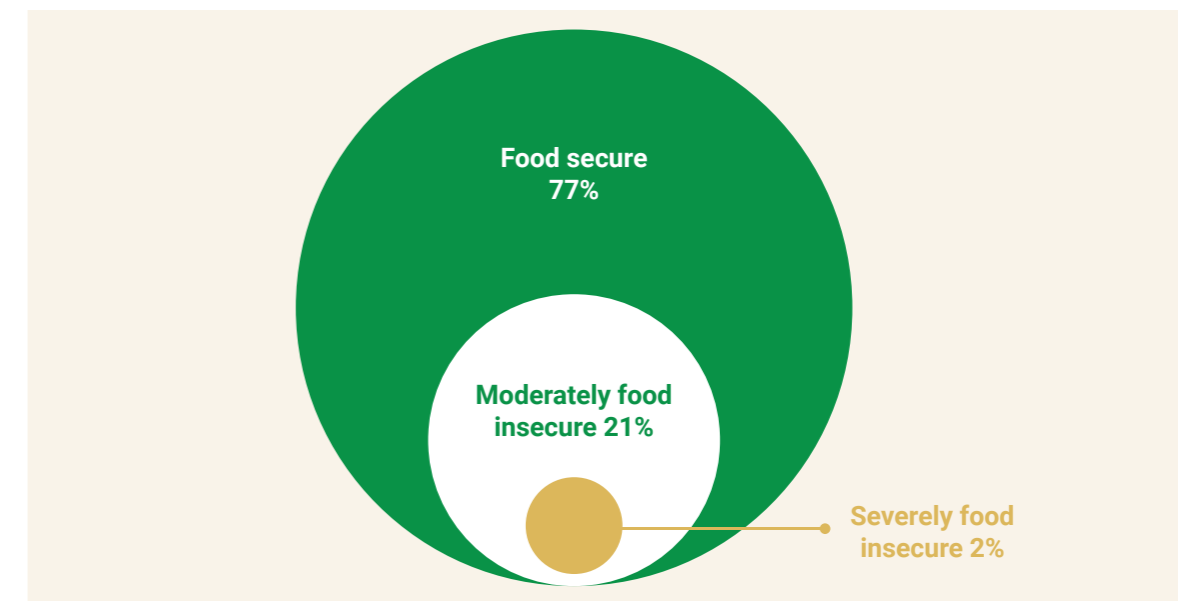
Based on the food consumption data collected in the 2019-2020 NSDP Baseline Survey, around one person in twelve, 8%, was undernourished in Vanuatu, with a margin of error of 2.5%. This may be interpreted to mean that roughly 24,000 people are experiencing hunger in Vanuatu. Undernourishment is lower in urban areas (less than 2.5%) than in rural areas (around 12%). This is due to the higher level of dietary energy consumption observed in urban areas compared to rural areas.

The UN FAO also monitors food security using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES). Food insecurity as measured by this indicator refers to limited access to food, at the level of individuals or households, due to lack of money, lack of access to natural resources or other environmental factors.

The analysis of the FIES, finds that 76.7% of the population, or more than 225,000 people in Vanuatu, were food secure from February 2019 through February 2020. More than three quarters of the population have sufficient access to food. The analysis also finds, however, that 2.4% of the population, or a little over 7,000 individuals, were exposed to severe levels of food insecurity in 2019-2020. For this group, reduced access to food and reductions in the quantity of food consumed meant that they have probably experienced hunger.



Figure 90 Prevalence of food insecurity in Vanuatu based on the FIES (% of individuals)



Moderate food insecurity implies that people did not have regular access to safe and nutritious foods, even if they were not necessarily suffering from hunger, thus putting them at greater risk of various forms of malnutrition and poor health than the food secure population.

Table 14 Prevalence of food insecurity based on the FIES at regional level (% of individuals)

	NATIONAL	RURAL	URBAN
Moderately or Severely food insecure	23%	27%	13%
Severely food insecure	2%	3%	1%

Food insecurity is higher in rural areas than in urban areas. More than one quarter, 27%, of people in rural Vanuatu are moderately or severely food insecure of which 3%, or roughly 6,530 individuals, have possibly experienced hunger in 2019-2020. Less than one out of a hundred people living in urban areas, by comparison, may have experienced hunger in that same period.

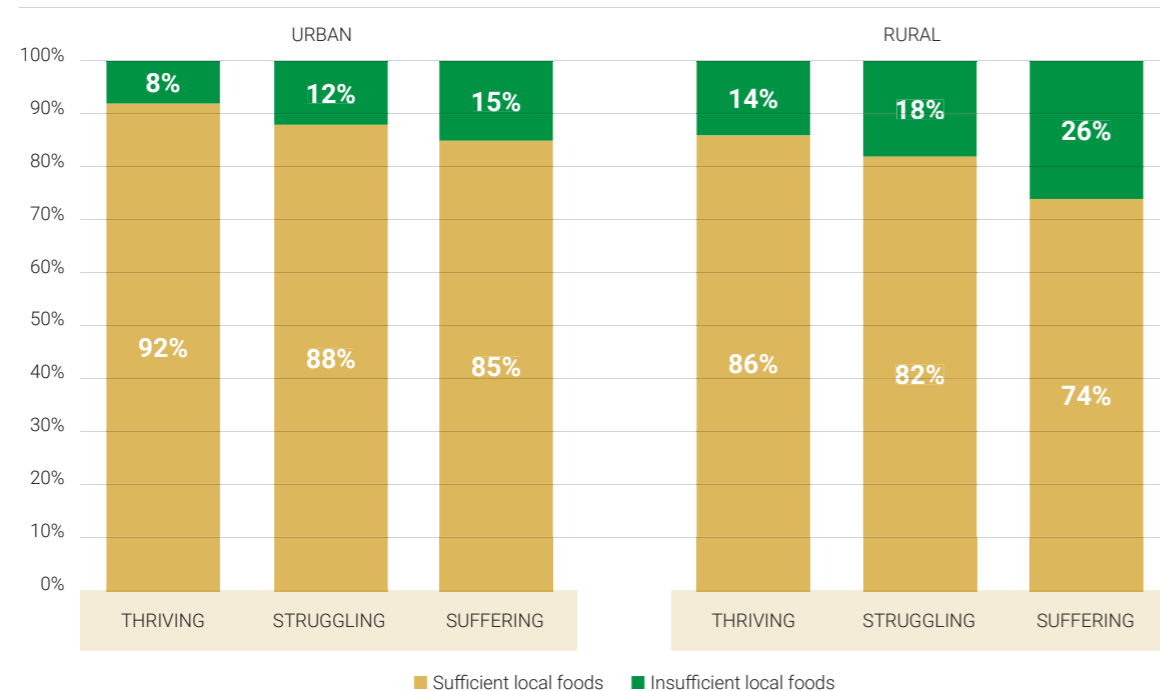
All communities in Vanuatu have a responsibility to ensure that everyone has food and nobody is hungry. We can do a better job of this if communities cooperate well and if the skills to be productive on the land are being transferred to younger people. The survey asked households if they felt they had sufficient access to, or a supply of, healthy local foods.

Figure 91 % Households that feel members have sufficient access to healthy local foods by area

	HOUSEHOLDS
NATIONAL	84%
URBAN	89%
Port Vila	92%
Luganville	79%
RURAL	83%
Torba	73%
Sanma Rural	68%
Penama	90%
Malampa	90%
Shefa Rural	83%
Tafea	88%

Less than 20% of households reported not having sufficient access to or a supply of healthy local foods. Households in rural Sanma and Torba Provinces by this measure were more likely to report a level of food insecurity for their members than in other rural areas. It is important that we both celebrate the fact that the great majority of households feel food secure, as well as acknowledge that some households are struggling to put food on the table.

Figure 92 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and food security



Thriving individuals are more likely to have sufficient local healthy foods available. Effective policies and programs that ensure people have access to locally produced and healthy foods will have positive impacts on the well-being of people throughout the country. More in-depth analysis on food security and nutrition information collected from the NSDP Baseline Survey can be found in supplemental reporting produced by the UN FAO.

Participation in Organized Sport

The Ministry of Youth and Sport actively promotes opportunities for young people to be involved in sports as part of a healthy lifestyle and an alternative to negative social outlets. Vanuatu recently hosted the Pacific Mini Games in 2017. The event inspired more ni-Vanuatu to get involved in organized sports of a wider variety. Organized sport, for purposes of the NSDP Baseline Survey, is defined as any sport that is formally organized by a sport committee, whereby there may be a league or organized competitions. This excludes individuals that may engage in pick-up games or sport for regular exercise purposes.

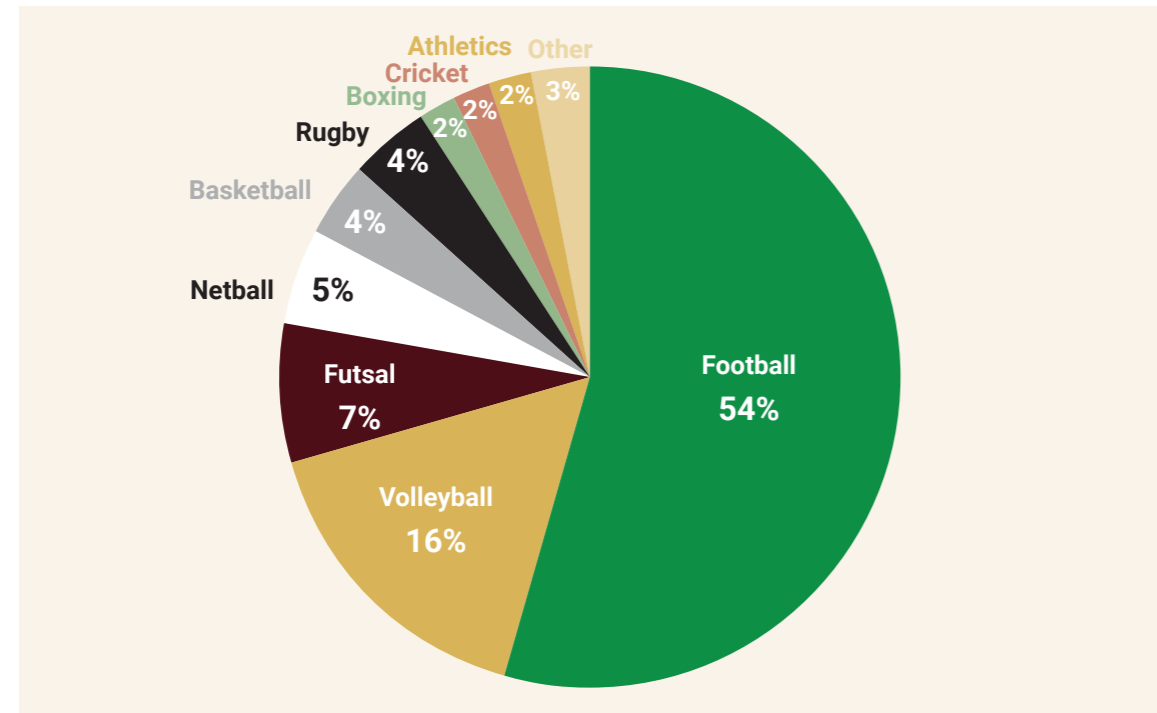
Figure 93 % Youth age 13-30 actively participating in an organized sport, by area and sex

	YOUTH POPULATION
NATIONAL	8%
URBAN	9%
Port Vila	9%
Luganville	7%
RURAL	7%
Torba	18%
Sanma Rural	14%
Penama	3%
Malampa	4%
Shefa Rural	8%
Tafea	4%
SEX	
Male	11%
Female	5%

An estimated 8% of Vanuatu youth between the ages of 13-30, just under 7,500 individuals, are active in at least one organized sport. Youth in rural Sanma and Torba Provinces had the highest participation rates in the country. Nearly one in five youth in Torba, and one in seven youth in rural Sanma, are engaged in organized sports. Young women are less likely than are young men to be participating in organized sports. Just 5% of women ages 13-30 are actively engaged in organized sports, compared with 11% of young men of that age group. This may mean there are fewer opportunities for women to participate in organized sport.



Figure 94 Organized sports in Vanuatu by frequency of participation

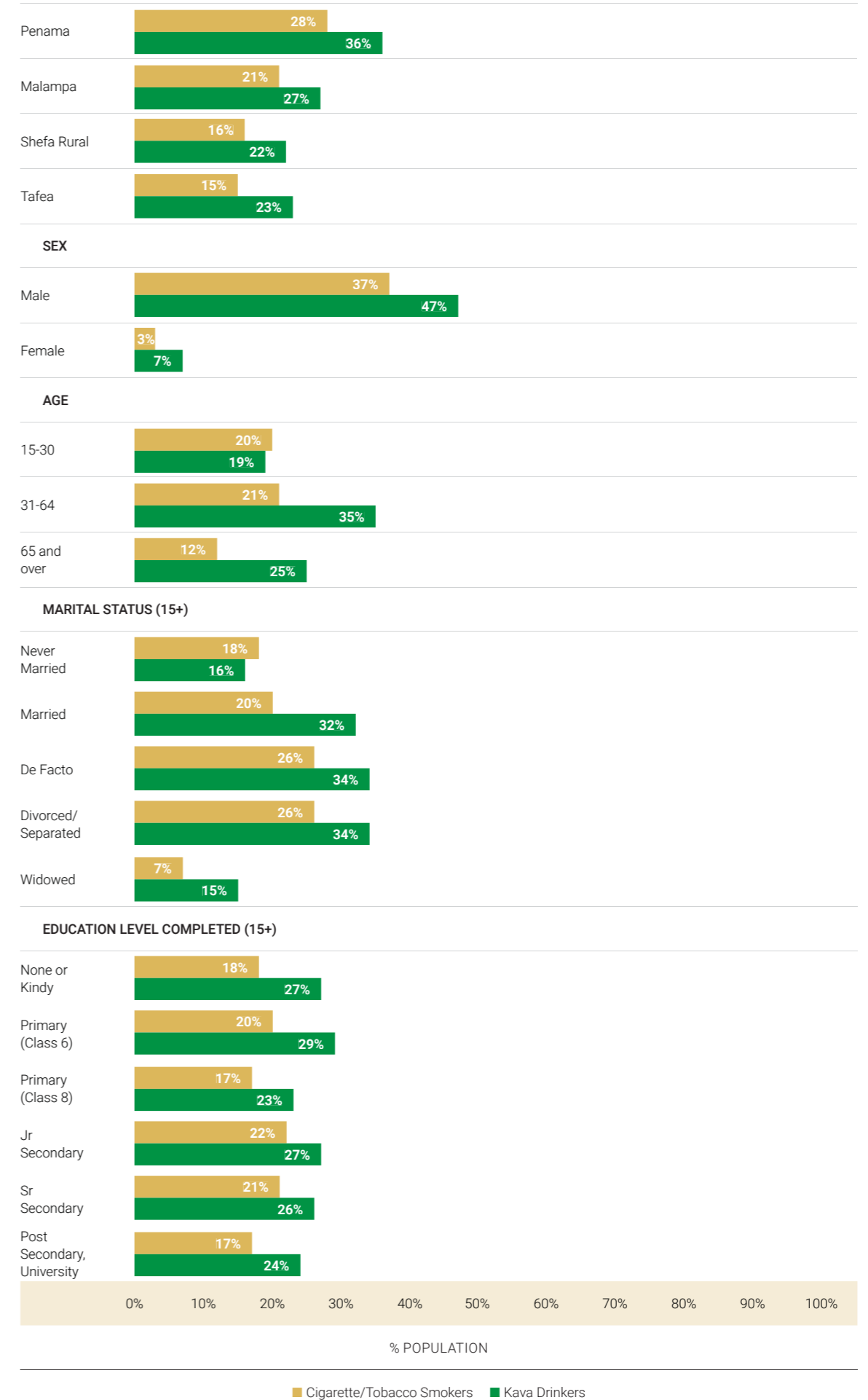
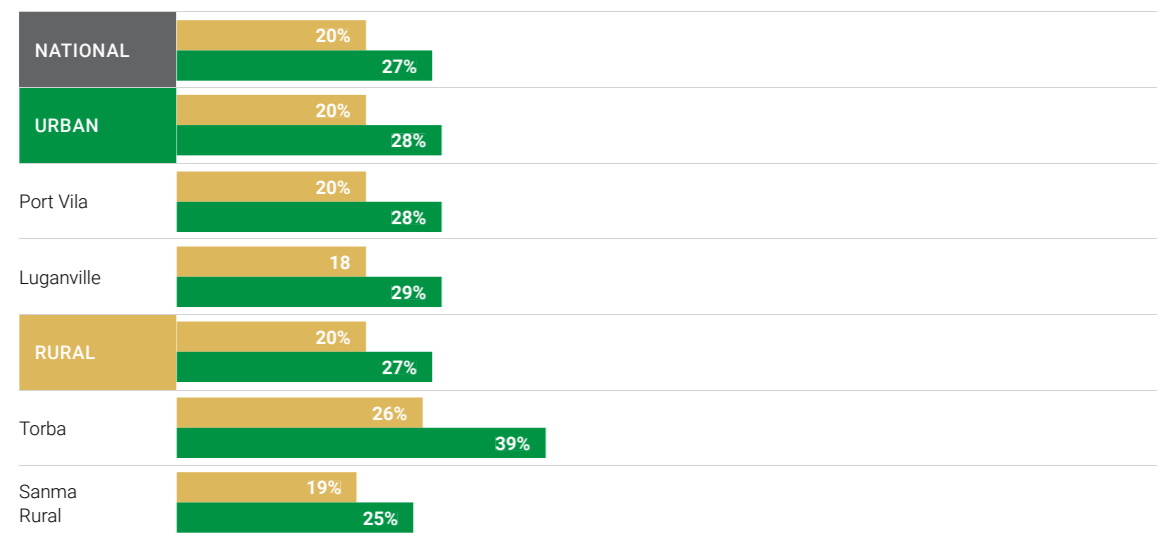


Football is by far the most popular organized sport in Vanuatu. Just over half, 54%, of youth aged 13-30 actively participating in organized sport are involved in football. Volleyball is the second most played organized sport, followed by Futsal and Netball.

Kava, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Betel Nut Use

Substance use and abuse has an impact on one's health and well-being. Too much of any substance can be destructive to the body. Smoking tobacco is well known to cause cancer, heart disease, emphysema and other non-communicable diseases. Regular consumption of alcohol can damage the liver and disrupt the harmony of the household. Overuse of kava can also lead to negative health and social impacts

Figure 95 % Population age 15+ that currently drink kava, smoke tobacco by area and group



Kava and tobacco consumption follow a similar pattern from place to place. More than one quarter, 27%, of people ages 15 and over reported to have drunk kava within the 7-day recall period. Smoking cigarettes is closely associated with kava consumption, although fewer people smoke than consume kava. The highest rates of kava and tobacco consumption are in Torba and Penama Provinces.

Consumption of kava and tobacco tend to be high particularly among ni-Vanuatu men. Just under half, 47%, of men ages 15 and over drink kava in Vanuatu, and over one-third of them, or 37%, smoke cigarettes. By comparison, just 7% of women drink kava and 3% smoke cigarettes. Kava and tobacco consumption does not appear to be strongly related to education—higher levels of formal educational attainment do not lead to significant reductions in kava or tobacco consumption. More youth between the ages of 15 and 30 are smokers than are kava drinkers, suggesting that cigarette smoking is a gateway to kava drinking for some young people.

There is evidence of reform when looking at current and past smoking habits. The vast majority of the population, 80%, do not currently smoke. A small percentage, 3%, of today's smoke-free population are reformed smokers, having smoked regularly in the past. The challenge for health officials is to convince more smokers to quit while they still can. Efforts to target areas where there are higher concentrations of daily smokers, such as Penama, Torba, and rural Sanma Provinces, would have bigger payoffs. Fourteen percent (14%) of men over the age of 14 smoke cigarettes or tobacco every day, making them more likely to have or develop an addiction to nicotine. The relationship between kava and tobacco use and educational attainment is unclear with the exception of daily smokers. While we see the relationship of fewer daily smokers among groups attaining higher levels of formal education, interestingly we see the lower levels of educational attainment have more successfully reformed, or quit smoking, than those with higher levels of education.

Figure 96 % Population age 15+ consuming alcohol at least once a week by area and group

	POPULATION
NATIONAL	6%
URBAN	10%
Port Vila	10%
Luganville	10%
RURAL	4%
Torba	4%
Sanma Rural	3%
Penama	4%
Malampa	3%
Shefa Rural	7%
Tafea	2%
SEX	
Male	10%
Female	2%
AGE	
15-30	7%
31-64	6%
65 and over	3%

MARITAL STATUS (15+)	
Never Married	6%
Married	4%
De Facto	11%
Divorced/Separated	11%
Widowed	1%
EDUCATION LEVEL COMPLETED (15+)	
None or Kindy	2%
Primary (Class 6)	4%
Primary (Class 8)	5%
Jr Secondary	7%
Sr Secondary	9%
Post Secondary, University	11%

Alcohol consumption is more prevalent in urban areas with 10% reporting to have drunk alcohol within the 7-day recall period, compared to just 4% of the population in rural areas. Those in rural Shefa Province with closer proximity to Port Vila have a higher prevalence of alcohol consumption than the other rural areas.

One out of every ten men and boys age 15 and over consumes alcohol at least once a week, compared with just 2% of women and girls. People that have gone through a divorce or separation, and those in less stable relationships where they are not traditionally married or married in a church, were much more likely to consume alcohol. There is a clear positive relationship between educational attainment and alcohol consumption—those that attain higher levels of formal education are more likely to consume alcohol than those that reached lower levels. Those that have achieved higher levels of education are more likely to have access to employment opportunities and be able to afford alcohol.

Consumption of betel nut is not common in Vanuatu—1% of the population reported chewing betel nut weekly. It is slightly more common in Torba Province where 8% of the population ages 15 and over, and almost exclusively males, reported consumption of betel nut.



DPT3 Immunization

Keeping pregnant women and young children healthy is also a priority as is evident in the national DPT3 campaign. DPT3 comprises a series of immunizations to prevent diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus. Children must receive all three doses of the vaccine before their fifth birthday in order to be fully immunized.

Figure 97 % Population age 0-4 that have received DPT3 Immunizations by area

	POPULATION
NATIONAL	47%
URBAN	57%
Port Vila	55%
Luganville	64%
RURAL	43%
Torba	15%
Sanma Rural	48%
Penama	59%
Malampa	9%
Shefa Rural	40%
Tafea	69%
SEX	
Male	46%
Female	47%

The survey asked parents or guardians of all children ages 0-4 in Vanuatu if their child has received DPT3 vaccinations. Less than half, 47%, of the children in this age group have been DPT immunized. There is variation in program success from region to region, clearly showing a gap in program outreach to Malampa and Torba Provinces.

Illness

All people encounter health issues over the course of their lifetime, some more critical than others. In this section, we look at temporary health problems that people encounter more regularly, such as the flu or a skin rash, as well as longer term chronic illnesses.

Figure 98 Average monthly % population with a non-chronic health problem, all ages, by area and group

	POPULATION
NATIONAL	28%
URBAN	25%
Port Vila	25%
Luganville	26%
RURAL	30%
Torba	49%

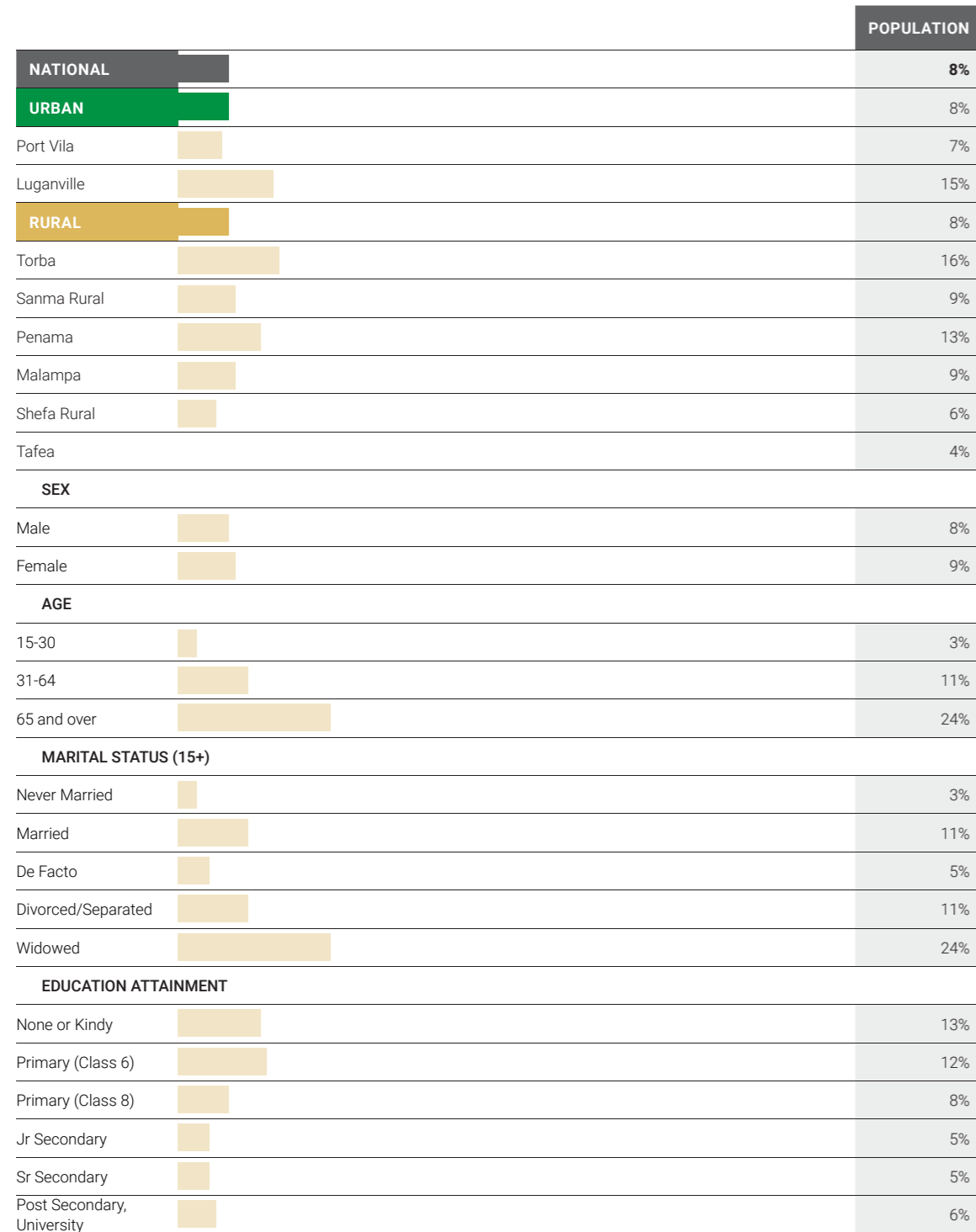
Sanma Rural	30%
Penama	40%
Malampa	33%
Shefa Rural	26%
Tafea	15%
SEX	
Male	27%
Female	30%
AGE	
Under 15	33%
15-30	24%
31-64	28%
65 and over	29%
MARITAL STATUS (15+)	
Never Married	20%
Married	28%
De Facto	28%
Divorced/Separated	30%
Widowed	35%
EDUCATION ATTAINMENT	
None or Kindy	27%
Primary (Class 6)	30%
Primary (Class 8)	25%
Jr Secondary	24%
Sr Secondary	24%
Post Secondary, University	19%

More than a quarter, 28%, of the population was experiencing a non-chronic health problem each month from February 2019 through February 2020. Non-chronic health problems include sick sores, diarrhea, stomach pain, cold and flu, fever, bodily injury, or skin disease. These typically temporary afflictions can slow people down. Nearly half, 49%, of the population of Torba Province experiences a non-chronic health problem each month. Improvements in sanitation and hygiene since the global outbreak of the novel coronavirus and its associated awareness campaign should lead to a reduction of some of these health problems that are communicable in nature.

Non-chronic health issues were more prevalent among young people under the age of 15, as well as among widowed individuals. There is an undeniable relationship between higher education outcomes and lower prevalence of non-chronic health problems.

Chronic illness influences individual well-being as well as the well-being of the household in general. People with chronic illnesses typically require caretaking and additional resources with the burden of care and provision shared at the household level.

Figure 99 % Population age 15+ reporting at least on chronic illness or condition by area and group

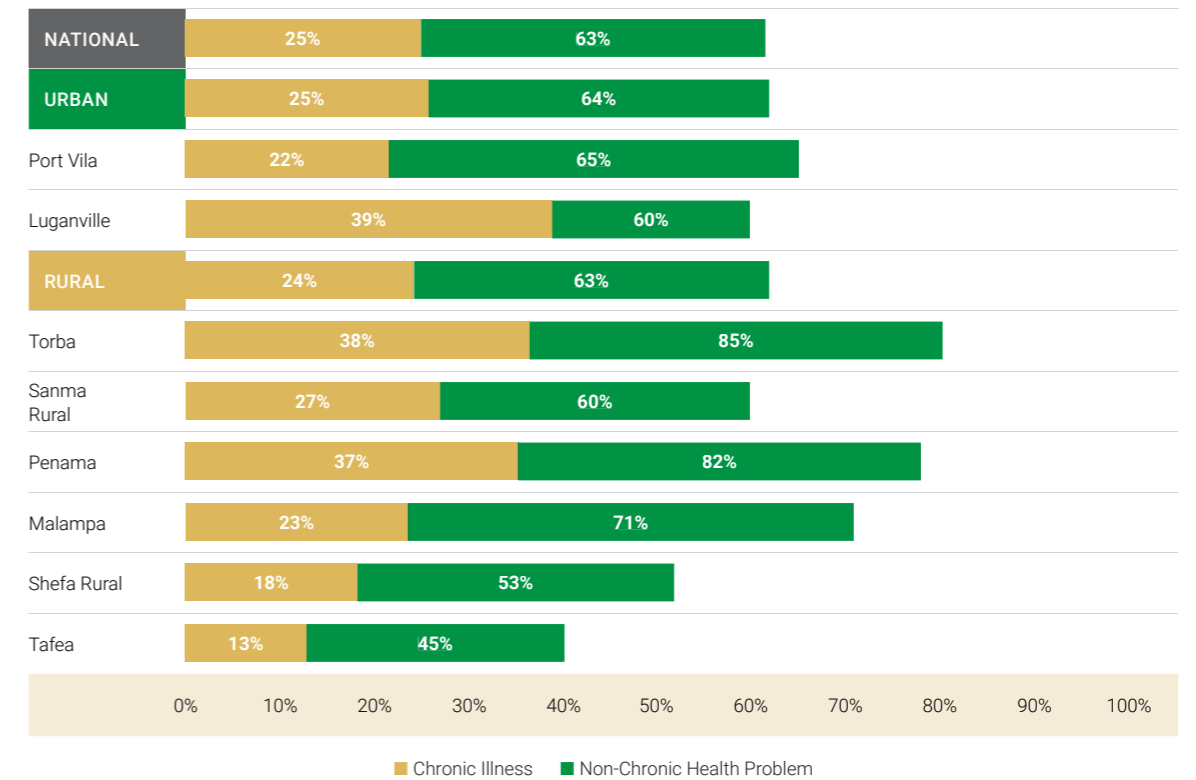


Less than 10% of the population ages 15 and over have a chronic illness in Vanuatu. Chronic illnesses include cancer, diabetes, heart disease, asthma, bronchitis, liver or kidney disease, hypertension, gout, obesity, mental disorder, stroke, Tuberculosis, malaria and Hepatitis B. More than 15% of the population age 15 and over reported a chronic illness in Torba Province and Luganville. Chronic illnesses are difficult and sometimes not possible to reverse.

Chronic illnesses are more likely to occur among older people. Nearly a quarter, 24%, of elderly people ages 65 and over reported a chronic illness. This likely speaks to the population of widows that are

predominantly elderly. Chronic illness was also more prevalent among those that attained less than a Junior Secondary formal education.

Figure 100 % Households with members reporting chronic and non-chronic health issues by area

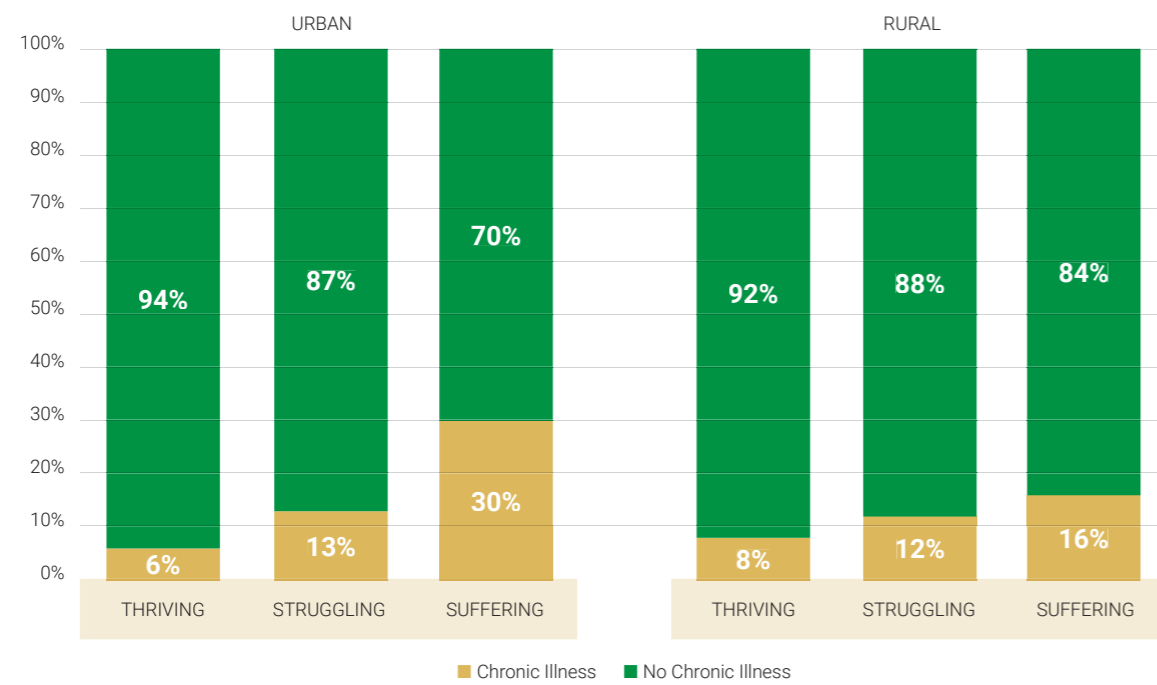


More than half, 63%, of all households have at least one member that is afflicted by a non-chronic health problem each month in Vanuatu. These afflictions may inhibit their ability to work and require others within the household to help them in their recovery. This burden appears to be the highest in Torba and Penama Provinces, each having more than 80% of households with a sick member. Good hygiene practices and other ways of reducing illness should be part of health messaging in these areas.

One quarter, 25%, of households in Vanuatu have at least one member living with a chronic affliction of some kind. The chronically ill can sometimes require someone caring for them at all times, depending on their condition. They are also likely to require special foods, assistive devices, or other things that can accommodate their needs, and this usually requires additional spending. A greater proportion of households in Luganville, Torba and Penama Provinces are facing this burden.



Figure 101 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and chronic illness



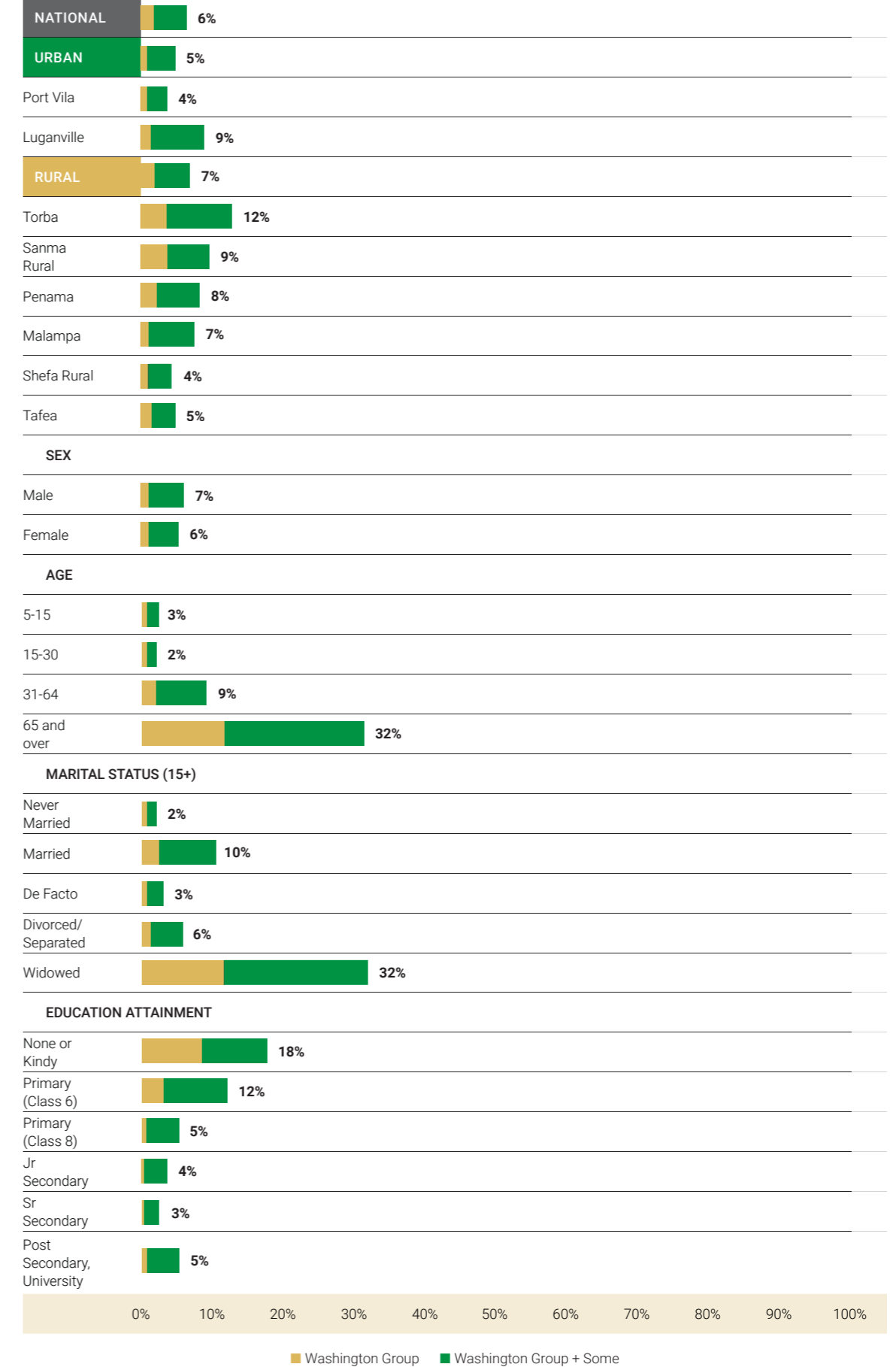
Individuals living with chronic illnesses, including non-communicable diseases (NCDs), are less likely to thrive in Vanuatu. Nearly one-third, 30%, of those suffering in urban centers have at least one chronic life threatening illness or condition. All efforts to reduce chronic illness in Vanuatu are worthwhile and, if effective, will improve well-being in the long term.

Disability

Diabetes is on the rise in Vanuatu and with it are complications that can result in amputations. It is estimated that the Vila Central Hospital averages at least one amputation per week. In some instances, amputees are left without adequate assistive devices and their additional needs can make them feel that they are a burden on their family. The Vanuatu Society of People with Disability define disability as the convergence of a physical limitation and a barrier to participation. The Washington Group short series of questions enables fieldworkers to collect information on physical limitation without using the language of disability that can humiliate and denigrate a person living with a physical limitation.

There is a tendency in Vanuatu to downplay the amount of difficulty one has when asked. People that have a very difficult time seeing, for example, they are more likely in Vanuatu to answer that they have “some difficulty”. Prevalence of disability in Vanuatu tends to be lower than anticipated as a result. When you consider those that reported “some difficulty” in at least one functional area, the prevalence increases closer to what we would anticipate.

Figure 102 Disability prevalence using Washington Group series by area and group



National prevalence of disability sits at 6.36% with regional variations when we consider the normal Washington Group analysis and add in those that had reported some level of difficulty. People in Torba Province were more likely to have some level of functional difficulty. The prevalence in Sanma and Torba Provinces is close to what was discovered in the 2019 Water Women and Disability Study conducted only in these two provinces.

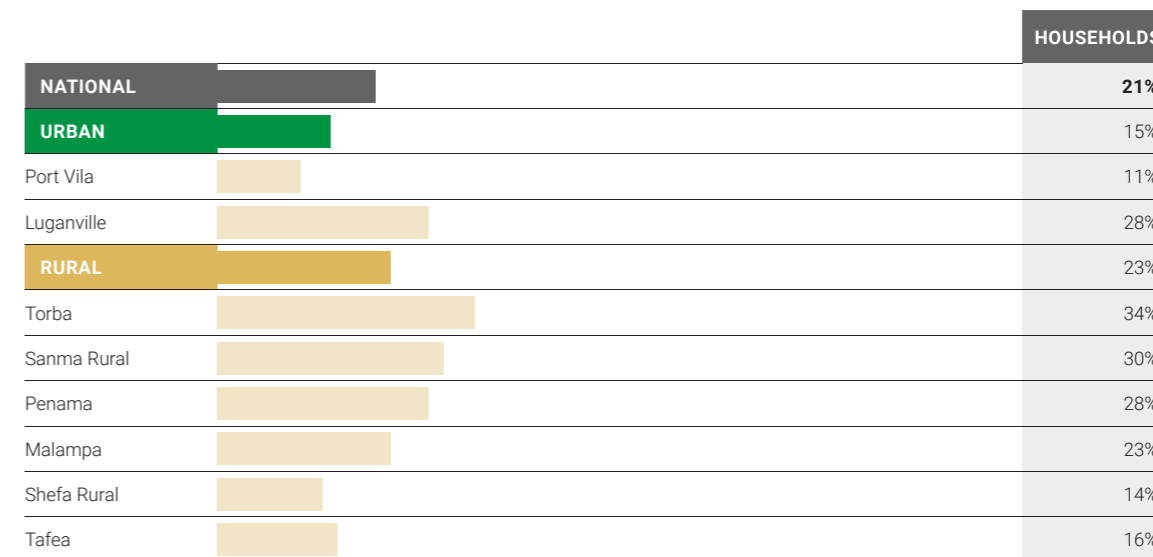
With age comes wisdom as well as the potential for impairment. Over 30% of those age 65 and over reported at least some level of functional difficulty, compared with just 2% of youth. Those that have attained higher levels of formal education were much less likely to have a disability than those that attained lower levels of education.

Table 15 Disability prevalence by functional difficulty, Washington Group inclusive of "some"

	POPULATION AGE 5 AND ABOVE	SEEING	HEARING	WALKING OR CLIMBING	REMEMBERING	SELF-CARE	COMMUNICATING
NATIONAL	258,017	3.77%	1.76%	1.54%	0.78%	0.40%	0.46%
URBAN	68,085	3.19%	1.14%	0.65%	0.64%	0.22%	0.45%
Port Vila	53,663	2.44%	0.76%	0.53%	0.29%	0.21%	0.39%
Luganville	14,422	5.99%	2.55%	1.07%	1.94%	0.26%	0.65%
RURAL	189,932	3.98%	1.98%	1.86%	0.83%	0.47%	0.46%
Torba	9,520	6.55%	3.42%	5.87%	1.30%	0.55%	0.30%
Sanma Rural	37,221	5.75%	3.10%	2.52%	1.67%	0.64%	0.75%
Penama	30,088	3.89%	1.75%	2.05%	0.91%	0.81%	0.56%
Malampa	37,706	4.63%	1.75%	1.98%	0.69%	0.33%	0.45%
Shefa Rural	42,415	2.43%	1.27%	0.73%	0.48%	0.34%	0.22%
Tafea	32,982	2.56%	1.74%	1.07%	0.29%	0.27%	0.40%
SEX							
Male	130,910	4.12%	2.00%	1.51%	0.93%	0.40%	0.57%
Female	127,107	3.41%	1.51%	1.56%	0.63%	0.41%	0.34%
AGE							
Under 15	74,557	0.20%	1.59%	0.31%	0.30%	0.36%	0.22%
15-30	83,686	0.64%	0.71%	0.27%	0.33%	0.11%	0.30%
31-64	84,195	6.52%	1.57%	2.00%	0.74%	0.20%	0.28%
65 and over	15,578	22.82%	9.22%	11.70%	5.69%	3.30%	3.38%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, AGE 15 AND OVER							
None or Kindy	14,371	9.71%	5.46%	6.35%	3.70%	2.27%	3.53%
Primary to Class 6	64,939	8.11%	2.53%	3.51%	1.32%	0.59%	0.59%
Primary to Class 8	24,325	3.33%	1.56%	0.88%	0.53%	0.06%	0.22%
Jr Secondary	38,724	2.73%	0.67%	0.59%	0.33%	0.05%	0.08%
Sr Secondary	27,299	1.51%	0.69%	0.32%	0.32%	0.10%	0.09%
Post Secondary, University	13,801	4.62%	0.76%	0.07%	0.42%	0.07%	0.07%

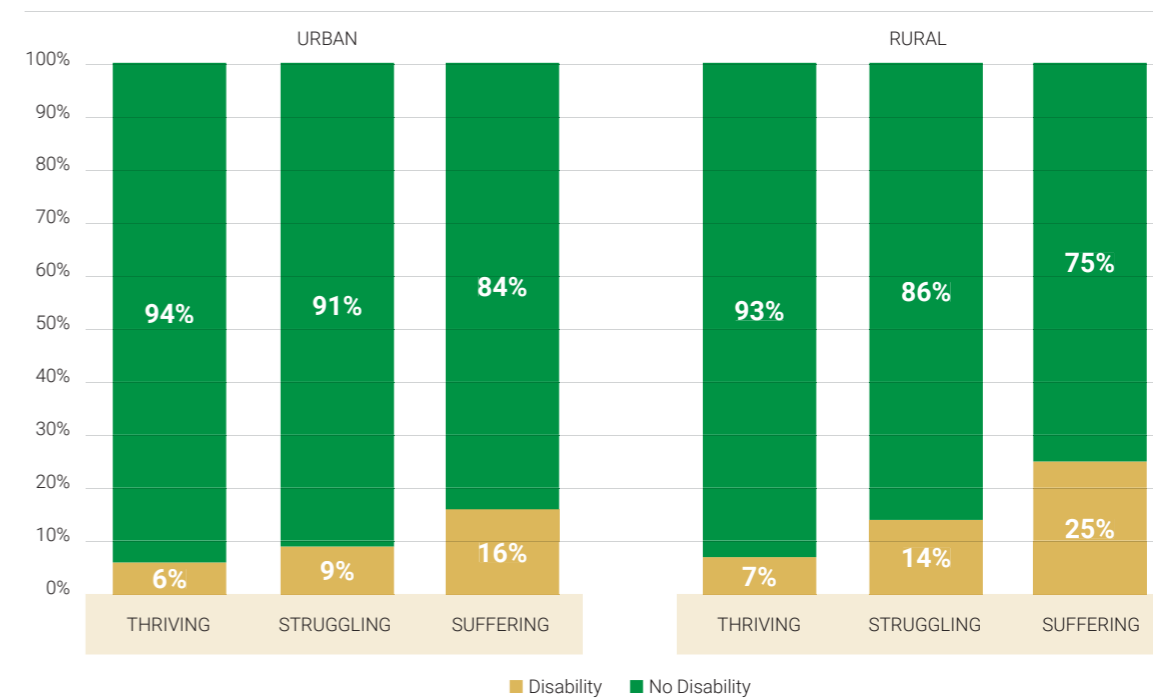
Seeing was the most prevalent functional difficulty in Vanuatu, followed by hearing and walking or climbing. Over 9,700 individuals ages 5 and over, or 3.77%, had difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses. It is more common to become vision impaired later in life. Prevalence of difficulty in seeing for people ages 65 and over jumps to nearly 23%.

Figure 103 % Households with at least one member living with a disability (WG+some)



A significant share of households in Vanuatu have members living with a disability. Roughly one out of every five households, 21%, has at least one member reporting some level of functional difficulty in seeing, hearing, walking, remembering, self-care, or communicating.

Figure 104 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and disability



It is unfortunate that individuals living with a disability are significantly less likely to thrive in Vanuatu. This finding is confirmed in a previous study conducted in SANMA and TORBA Provinces in 2019³³. Much can be done to improve the quality of life for people with physical limitations through programs and policies that help reduce barriers to participation and access to everything from community meetings to higher education. Households with members living with a disability must try to accommodate for special needs including water, sanitation and hygiene in order to improve quality of life in the home.

Well-being and Health

The NSDP Baseline Survey provides evidence in support of healthy living, and evidence that happier individuals live healthier lives. Access to sufficient local healthy foods is a condition for well-being in rural and urban areas of Vanuatu. Healthy habits reduce the chances of developing non-communicable diseases, many of which can be chronic and reduce an individual's ability to thrive. People living with a disability are less likely to thrive. Policies and programs aimed at improving food security and food sovereignty, reducing barriers to access and participation for people living with disabilities, and improving healthy behaviors that reduce NCD prevalence will be beneficial to the well-being of all people in Vanuatu.



5 PROFILE OF SOCIAL RESILIENCE

Introduction

People in Vanuatu thrive in large social networks inherent in the traditional family structure. These social networks act as safety nets that support people when and where they are in need. Cooperation reinforces social networks over time. People help their neighbors and, in turn, their neighbors help them. Baskets of food are sent via ship and plane to family networks in urban areas, and rice and other store-bought goods are sent back. Strong communities are ones that work together, help one another, and create an environment where its members feel safe. Development is sometimes halted in rural areas when communities are not functioning with order, peace, and respect for one another. Fostering social connections and strong, resilient communities is a constant development requirement for Vanuatu.

The frequency of contact with others and the quality of personal relationships are crucial determinants of people's well-being. Social networks provide material and emotional support in times of need. Well-developed social connections can generate trust in other people, tolerance of diversity, and norms of reciprocity as well as facilitate exchanges of information and collective action. These networks, and the shared values and norms they generate, are fundamental to social capital. Social capital is increasingly recognized as a driver of important well-being outcomes, including democratic participation, lower crime rates, improved health status, and better performing economies.

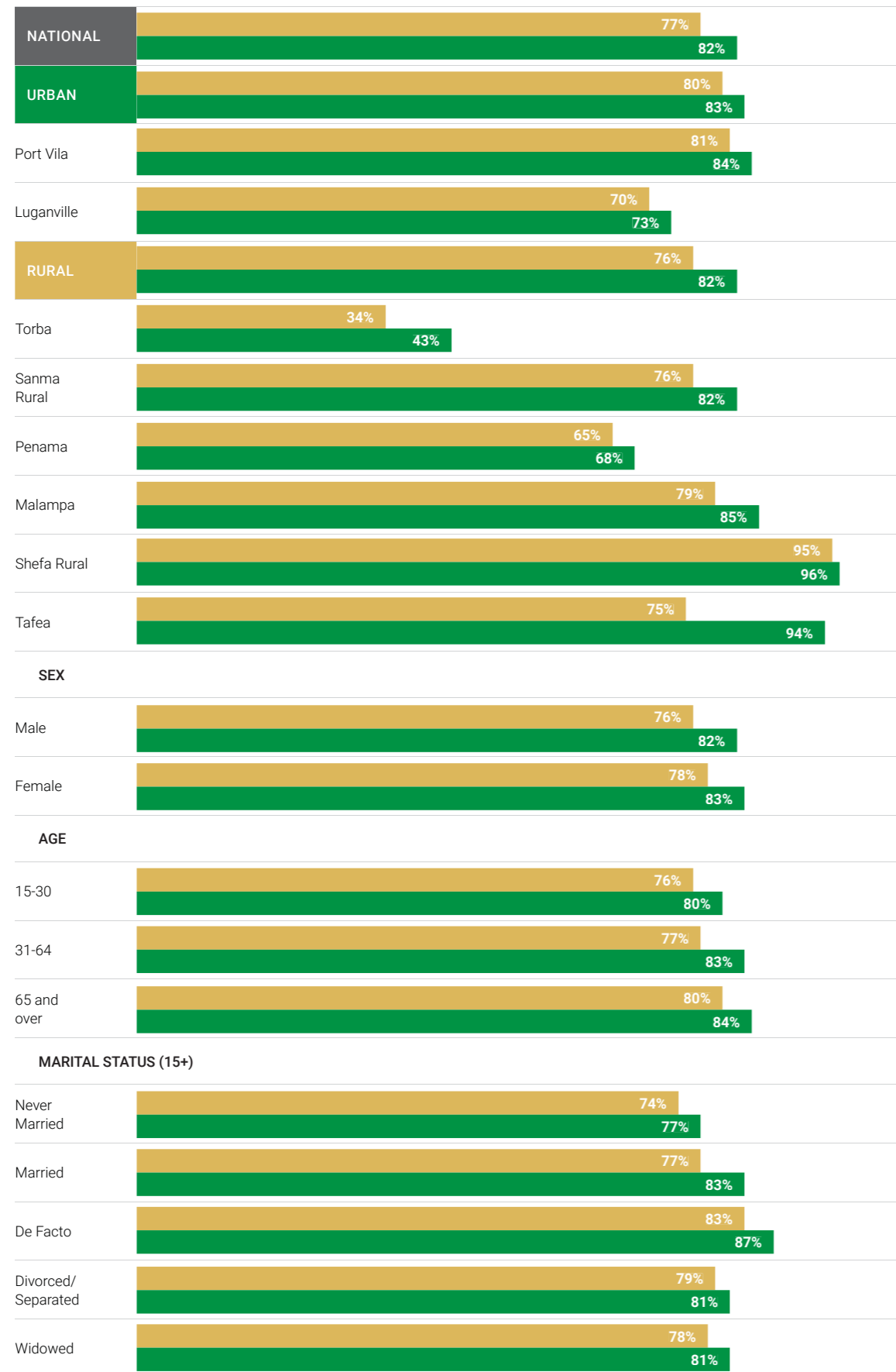
This section will also look at individual direct involvement in ceremonial activities. Ceremonies are important events when people learn from one another through observation, story, and feasting. Participation in marriage, death, circumcision, reconciliation, grade taking, or other ceremonies is largely unavoidable and is demonstrable of engagement in activities that pass traditional knowledge from one generation to the next. This section will look at the frequency of ceremonial participation by type and contribution.

Social support

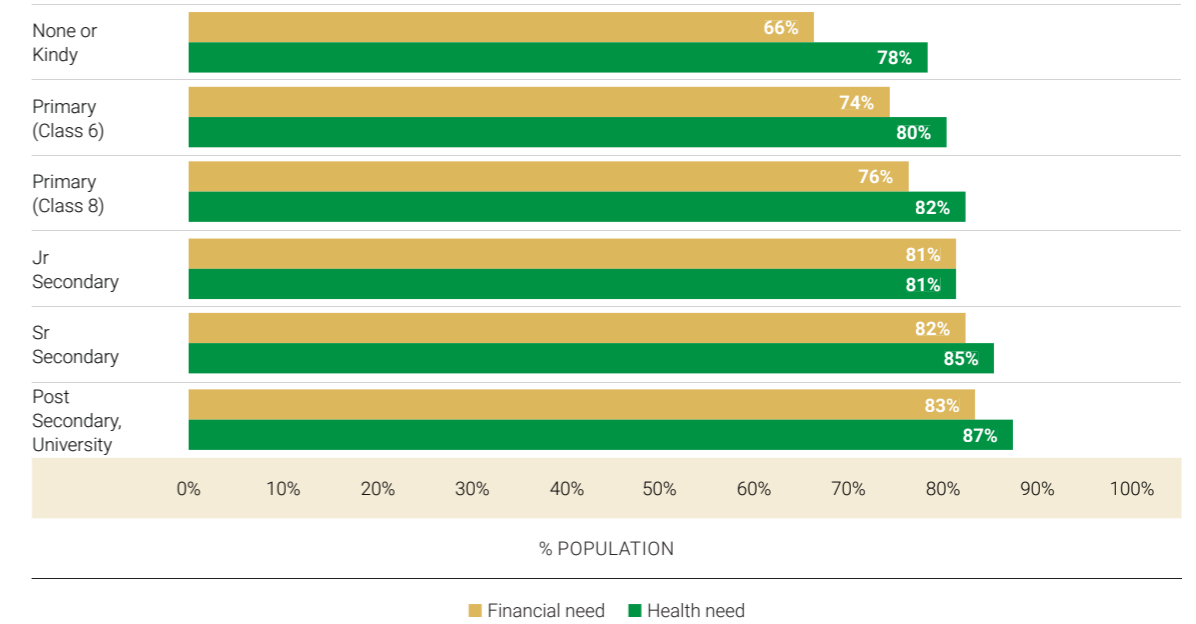
The problems of starvation and homelessness that plague Western industrialized countries are not problems faced in Vanuatu. Part of this is due to the vast networks of social support people are born into in Vanuatu. An indigenous ni-Vanuatu has multiple sets of parents, an extraordinary number of uncles, aunts, and grandparents and siblings that will help them if ever in need.

³³ The "Water, Women, and Disability Survey" was a component of the "Laetem Dak Kona" project. The project, managed by World Vision Vanuatu, used information from the survey to inform interventions that would improve livelihoods for those living with a disability in Sanma and Torba Provinces.

Figure 105 % Population age 15+ that have someone they can count on in times of need by area and group



EDUCATION LEVEL COMPLETED (15+)

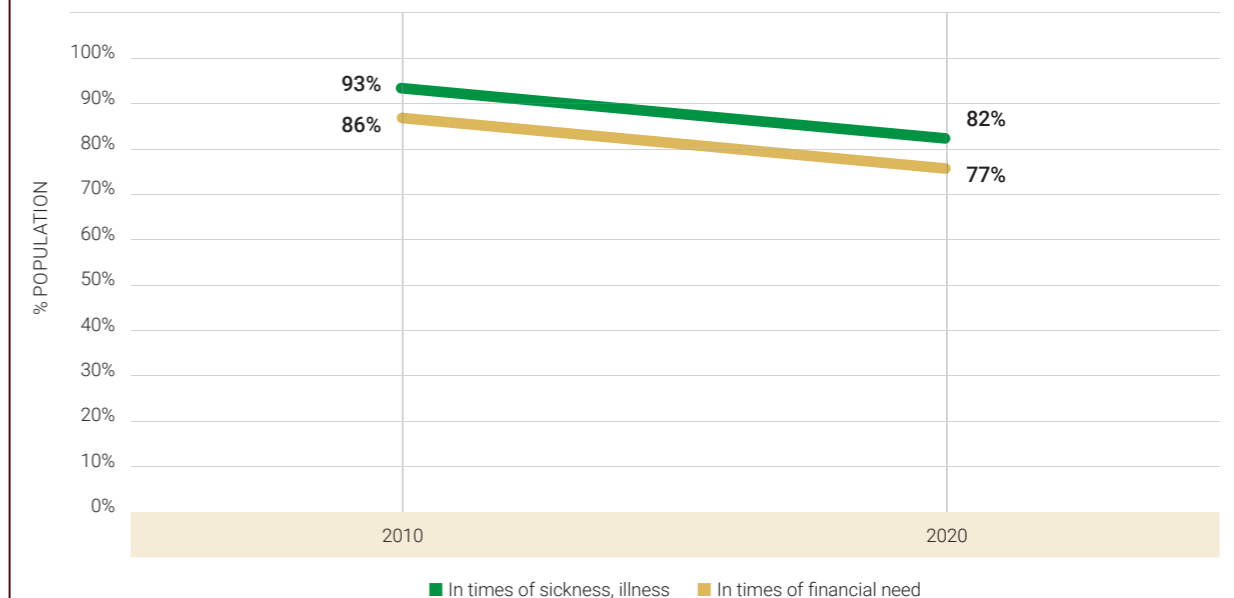


A big majority, 82%, of the population ages 15 and over have someone they can count on in times of sickness or illness, or when they have a health need. This is true for a majority of people in all places with the exception of Torba Province where less than half, 43%, said they had someone they can count on in a time of health need.

The safety net in times of financial need is smaller than for health needs, although more than three-quarters, 77%, of the population ages 15 and over have someone they can call on in times of financial need. This is true for a majority of people in all places with the exception once more of Torba Province where two-thirds, 66%, of the population reported not having someone they can count on in times of financial need.

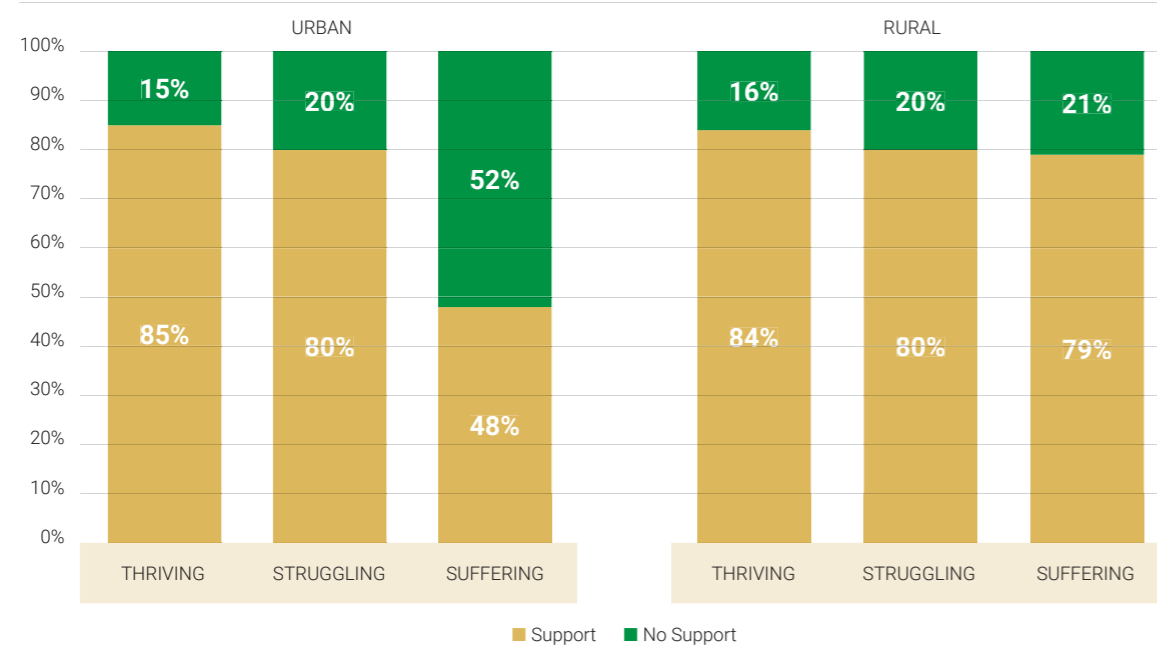
Those that have completed higher levels of formal education were more likely to have someone they can count on in times of sickness or financial need—a result of the social networks that are built within the education system. Formal education affords many people in Vanuatu an opportunity to broaden their social network in different parts of the country.

Figure 106 Change in % population age 15+ with people they can count on since 2010



The size of the social safety net has likely shrunk since the 2010 pilot study on well-being first began collecting this information. The proportion of the population ages 15 and over that have someone they can count on in times of a health or financial need has dropped by roughly 10% within the ten-year period while the population itself increased by roughly 20% in the same period.

Figure 107 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and social safety net (support in times of need)

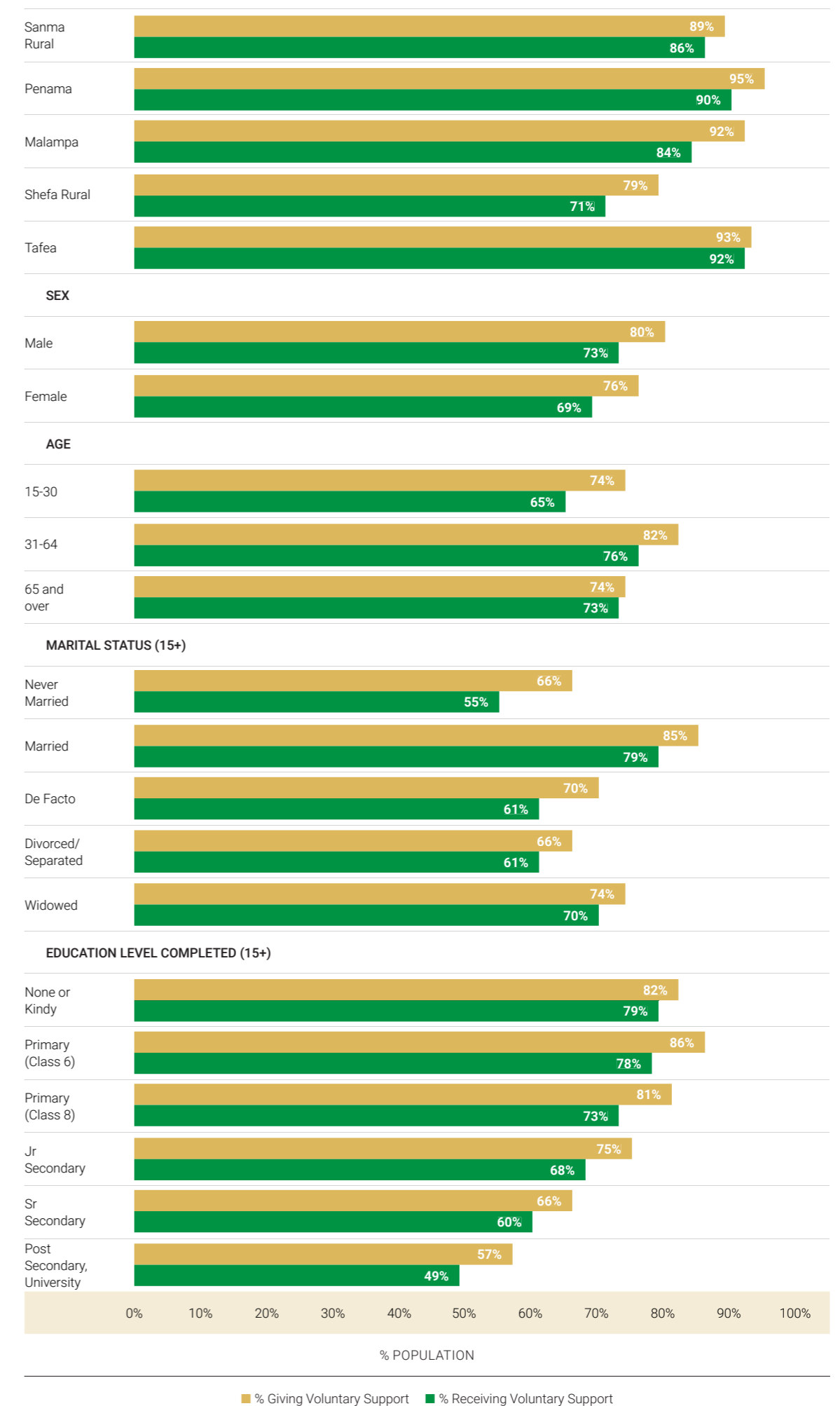
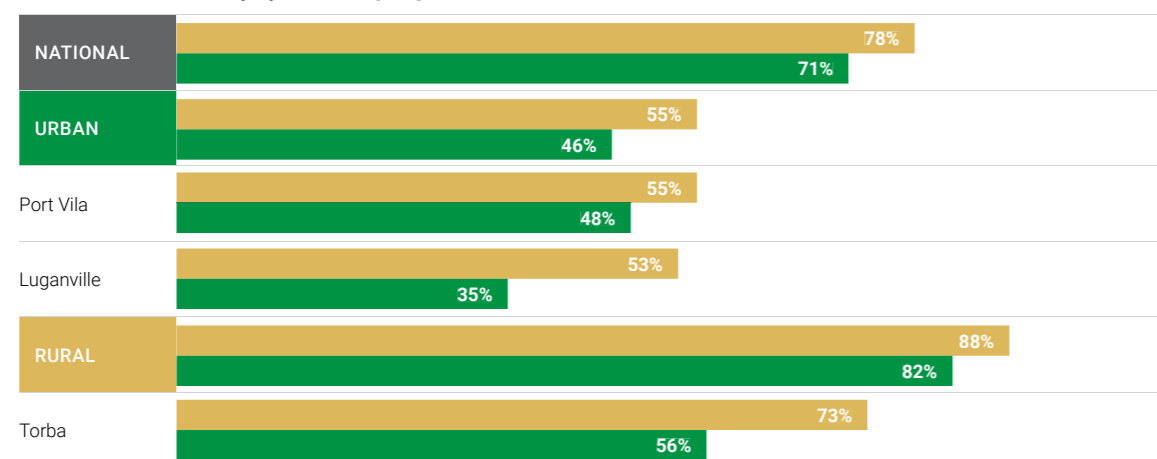


Thriving individuals in both urban and rural areas are more likely to have dependable support from their social networks in times of need. Most alarming, more than half of those that are suffering in urban centers are without someone they can count on in times of need.

Reciprocity and Exchange

Tradition, or the rules of 'kastom', requires reciprocity among members of the same social network. The cycle of giving and receiving goods and services or assistance helps reinforce social bonds and make the safety net stronger. Helping others without a cash reward comes naturally to most people in Vanuatu. Giving support without explicit expectations of anything in return is a Melanesian value, as is returning support to those that have given it to you in the spirit of reciprocity and respect.

Figure 108 % Population age 15+ giving and receiving voluntary support to/from others in their community or area annually by area and group

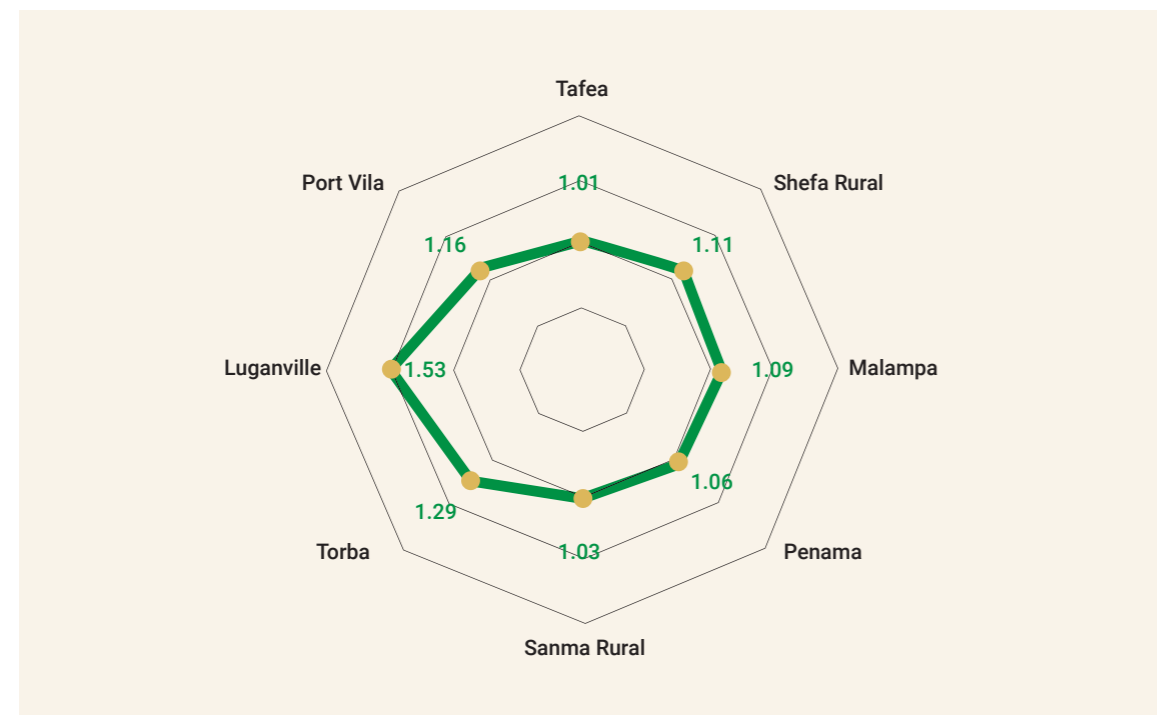


More than three quarters, 78%, of the population ages 15 and higher provided voluntary support to others in their community within the year leading up to the survey. The voluntarism rate drops in urban areas to just over 50%, and jumps to 88% in rural areas.

Voluntarism in the Melanesian context has a giving and receiving component. People help others in their community with the understanding that the support they give others will come back to them in a time of need. The receiving component has lagged behind the giving component since we began collecting this data in 2010. People perceive themselves as being more giving than others are. Whereas 78% report having given voluntary support to others in their community in the previous 12 months, only 71% reported receiving support from others in their community within the same period.

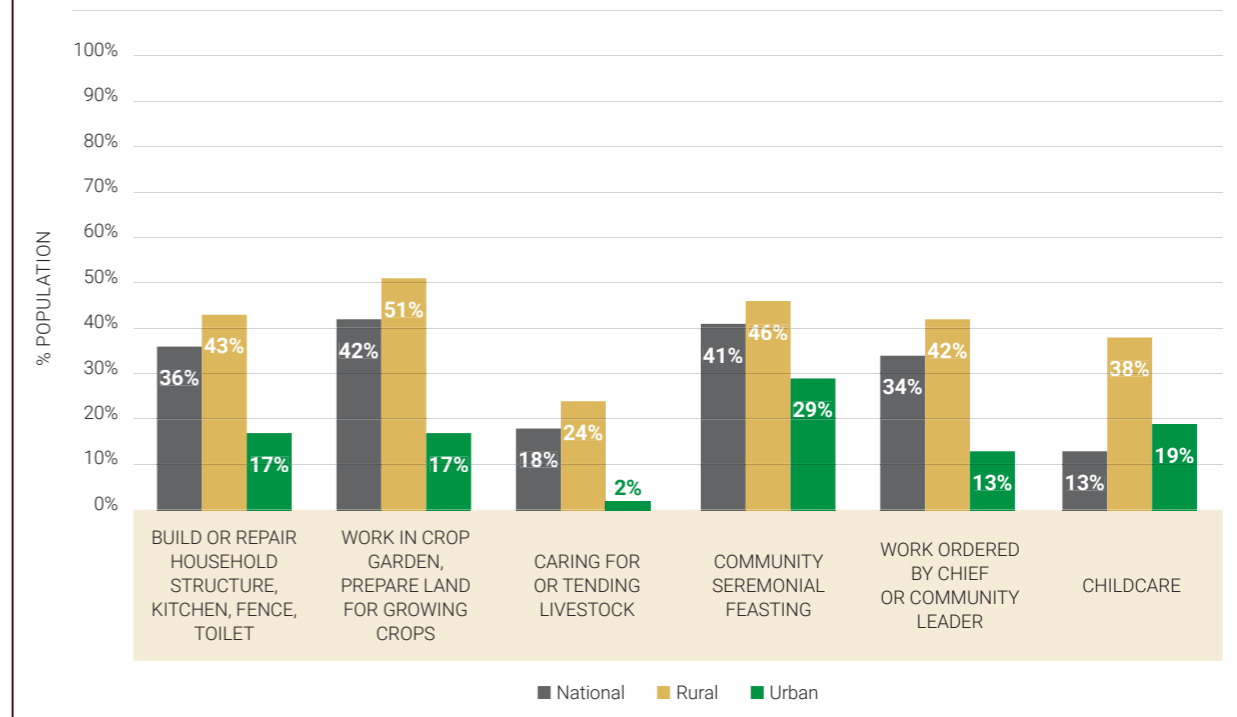
The rate of voluntarism is higher among the 31-64 age cohort, those that are either traditionally married or married in the church, and those that completed lower levels of formal education. The rate of receiving support from others is lower among all groups.

Figure 109 Giving to receiving ratio by area



The ratio of giving to receiving, in a perfect world, would be 1:1—there is an unspoken expectation that you will receive support when you need it if you help others in their times of need. People in Tafea Province, rural Sanma Province, and Penama Province had the highest levels of reciprocity. People in Luganville and Torba Province had the lowest levels of reciprocity, whereby more people felt they gave support to others without receiving support in return.

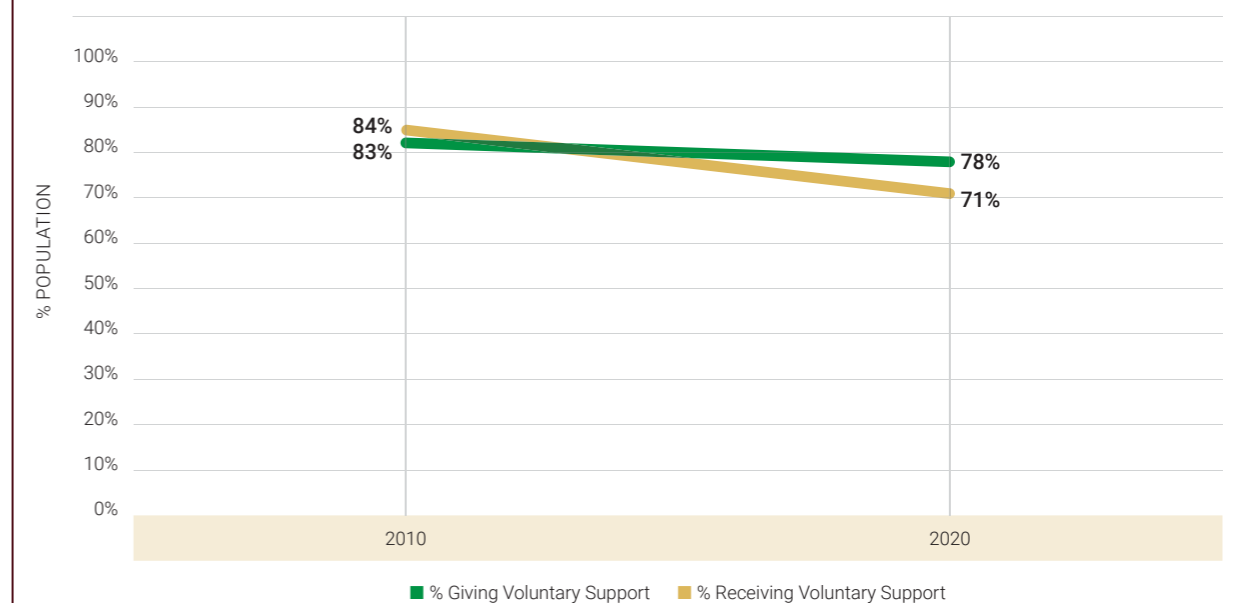
Figure 110 Types of voluntary support by area



People provide support to others without cash payment in many ways. Less than half, 42%, of people ages 15 and over in Vanuatu helped someone prepare or maintain a garden, plant or harvest food crops. This jumps to just over half, 51%, of people in rural areas. The second most offered form of voluntary support is the support given during ceremonial feasting.

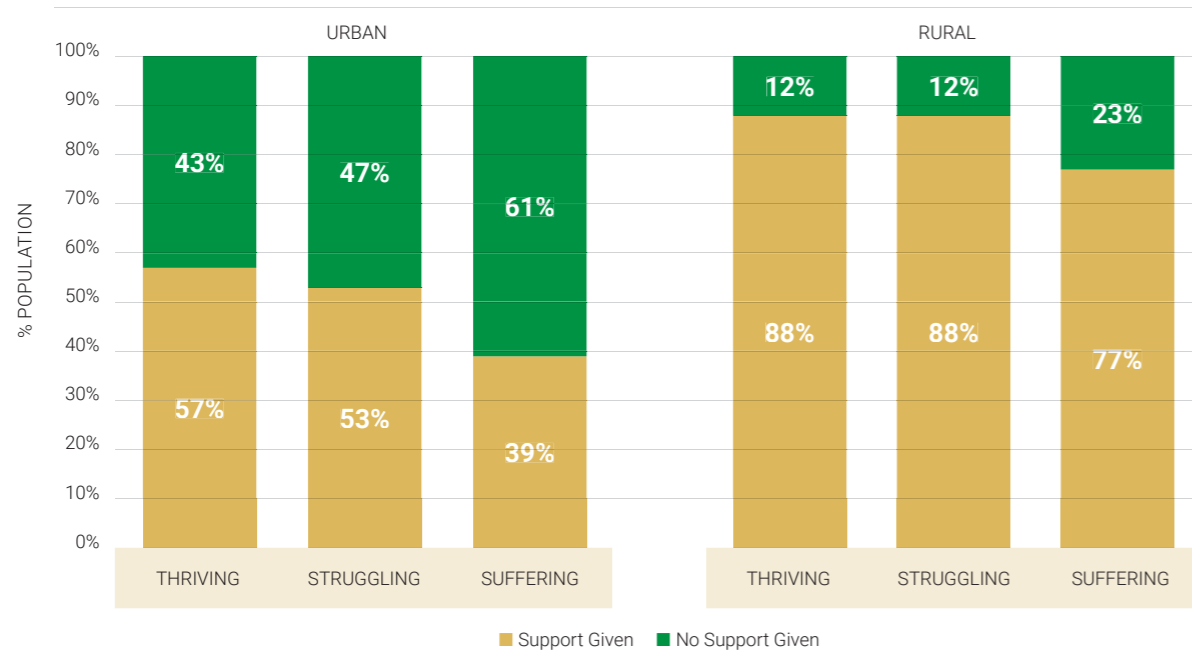
A significant proportion, 36%, of people ages 15 and over helped others with building or repairing a household structure, kitchen, fence, or toilet. Nearly one-third, 32%, of people supported community work tasked by a chief and helped care for other people's children when in need. Less than 20% of the population ages 15 and over helped others with tending of livestock. People depend on each other in some critical ways in Vanuatu, particularly in rural areas, and that interdependence is what gives the social safety net its strength.

Figure 111 Change in reciprocity since 2010



The proportion of the population giving and receiving support has dropped in the ten years since the data was first collected with the pilot study in 2010. The rate of voluntarism dropped from 83% in 2010 to 78% in 2020. Receiving support dropped more than that of giving, from 84% in 2010 to just 71% in 2020. This trend needs to be reversed if the country is to develop further and wishes to maintain Melanesian values.

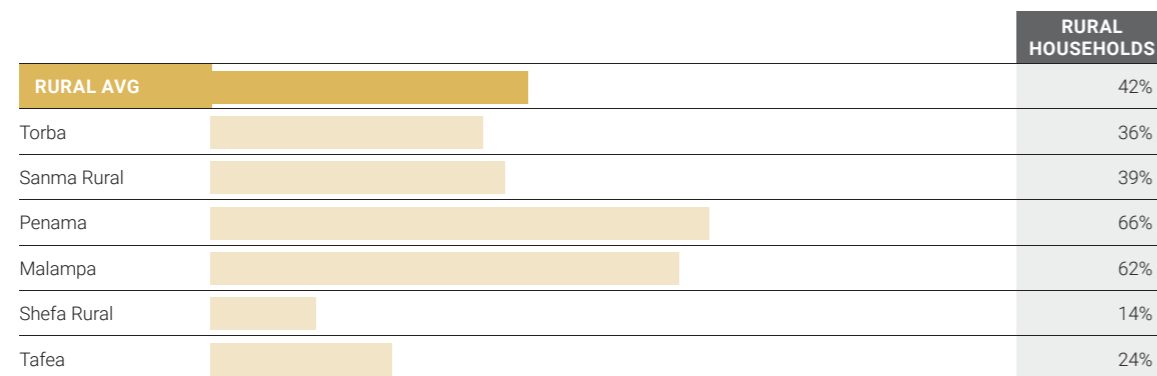
Figure 112 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and voluntary support to others



While voluntary support to others is more prevalent in rural areas, those that provide support to others without cash payment are more likely to thrive than those that are less giving. Individuals that are suffering do not lend voluntary support to others in their area or community are more likely to suffer. This is another reason the downward trend in voluntary support should be taken as a wakeup call to communities around the country—helping others is directly beneficial to the well-being of the helper.

Reciprocity requirements do not end at a community's boundary. Family that are based in an urban center may be asked to send something that supports construction of a structure, like sheets of iron roofing or cement, or they may send rice and other food items to their elderly parents in rural areas. Likewise, the sender may receive a basket of their favorite yams, or a pig, as a thank you or to support them with a need they have in town.

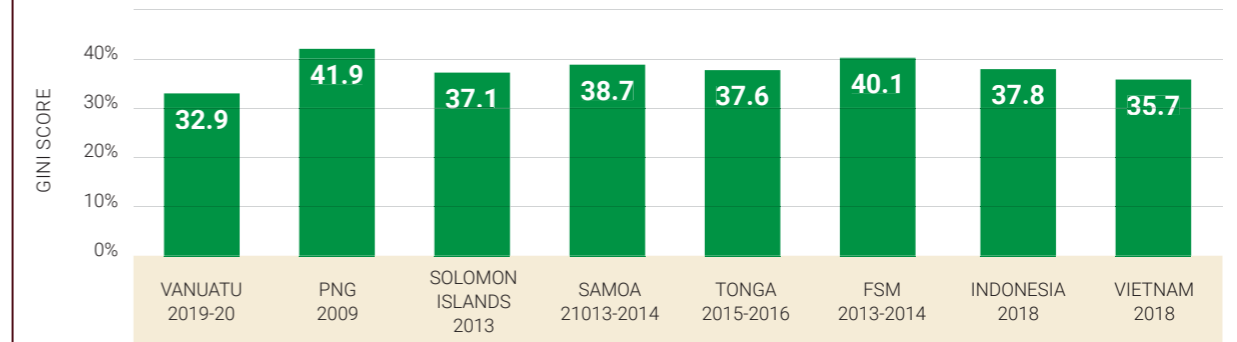
Figure 113 % rural households that engage in exchange of goods with family in urban centers annually by area



The data suggests that food and items of traditional value are being sent to family in urban centers by less than half, 42%, of households in rural Vanuatu. It implies that 42% of households in rural Vanuatu are receiving items requiring money, from food to other goods, from family based in urban centers. A majority of households in Penama and Malampa Provinces engaged in the exchange of goods with family based Luganville and Port Vila. Households in rural Shefa Province, most of which are located on Efate with road access to the capital city, reported the lowest engagement in this type of rural/urban exchange.

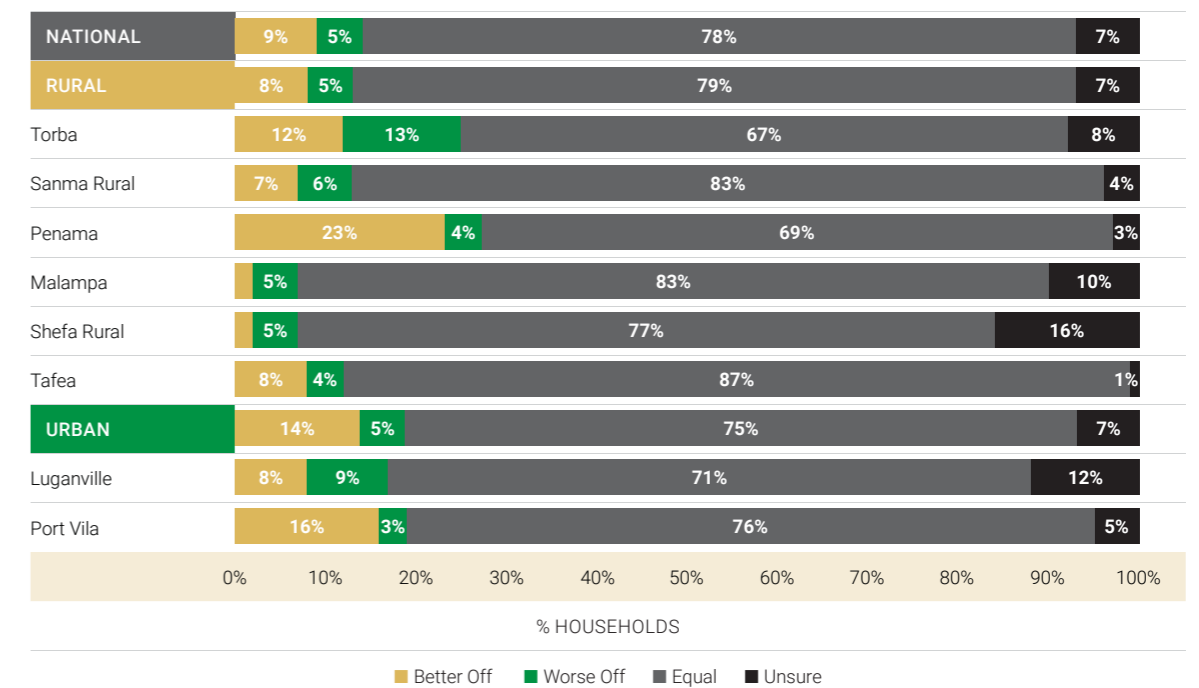
Equality

Figure 114 Gini index comparisons in Asia Pacific region



World Bank analysis of consumption produced a summary report of hardship and distribution of resources. Inequality in Vanuatu is relatively low compared to other East Asia & Pacific countries. The Gini index³⁴, a measure of inequality that scales from perfectly equal distribution of welfare across the population (0) to one person in the population holding all the welfare (100), was estimated at 32.9 for Vanuatu in 2019-20 based on per capita consumption collected in the NSDP Baseline Survey.

Figure 115 Household perceived equality with other households in area or community by area



34 Key Indicators of the Labor Market (KILM): 2001-2002, International Labor Organisation, Geneva, 2002, page 704.

The perception of equality is prevalent throughout all areas in Vanuatu. Heads of households were asked if they felt their household was better off, worse off, or equal to other households in their area or community. More than three-quarters, 78%, of households felt they were equal in relation to other households. The sense of equality is highest in Tafea and rural Sanma Provinces and lowest in Penama Province where nearly one-quarter, 23%, felt they were better off than others were.

Trust

Trust is built, and earned, among people in communities through positive social interactions and demonstrated mutual respect. The level of trust one has for others in their community indicates how well they work together and the level of respect they have for one another.

Figure 116 Mean level of trust in other people, 0-10, by area and group

	VALUE	LESS TRUSTING	MORE TRUSTING	DIFFERENCE
NATIONAL	6.01			
URBAN	5.16			-0.84
Port Vila	5.03			-0.98
Luganville	6.00			-0.01
RURAL	6.37			0.36
Torba	7.24			1.23
Sanma Rural	6.26			0.26
Penama	7.75			1.74
Malampa	5.51			-0.50
Shefa Rural	5.65			-0.36
Tafea	7.02			1.01
SEX				
Male	6.14			0.13
Female	5.88			-0.13
AGE				
15-30	5.93			-0.07
31-64	6.02			0.01
65 and over	6.24			0.23
MARITAL STATUS				
Never married	5.89			-0.12
Married	6.17			0.16
De facto	5.39			-0.62
Divorced/separated	5.88			-0.12
Widowed	6.14			0.13

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

None or kindy	7.01		1.00
Primary through Class 6	6.26		0.25
Primary through Class 8	6.05		0.04
Jr Secondary	5.56		-0.44
Sr Secondary	5.54		-0.47
Post Secondary, University	5.54		-0.47

People living in rural areas in Vanuatu have, on average, higher levels of trust in others in their community than those living in urban centers. The highest levels of trust in others were found among people living in Penama, Torba and Tafea Provinces. People living in Penama, Torba and Tafea Provinces reported the highest levels of trust in others, a full point or more higher than the national mean. People living in Port Vila reported the lowest level of trust in others.

The level of trust on the 0-10 scale stays between 5.8 and 6.3 for most groups in Vanuatu. When looking at marital status, those in de facto relationships that have not been married reported the lowest overall level of trust in others. A negative relationship appears when looking at formal education and trust levels. The level of trust people have in others drops significantly among those that have attained a Junior Secondary or higher formal education.

People that attained Junior Secondary or higher have, on average, less trust in others in their community than those that did not go to school or attained primary school education only.

Safety and Security

Everyone has the right to feel safe in his or her community and enjoy the same freedoms as others. Men and women of all ages should enjoy a level of safety in their homes, in their yards, in their neighborhood and in their community. People should feel safe from violent physical or sexual assault, safe from black magic, or "nakaimas", and safe from harassment or discrimination.

Figure 117 % Population age 15+ that feel safe from violent attack when walking alone after dark in their community or area

	POPULATION
NATIONAL	60%
URBAN	54%
Port Vila	58%
Luganville	30%
RURAL	62%
Torba	64%
Sanma Rural	52%
Penama	76%
Malampa	49%
Shefa Rural	60%
Tafea	85%

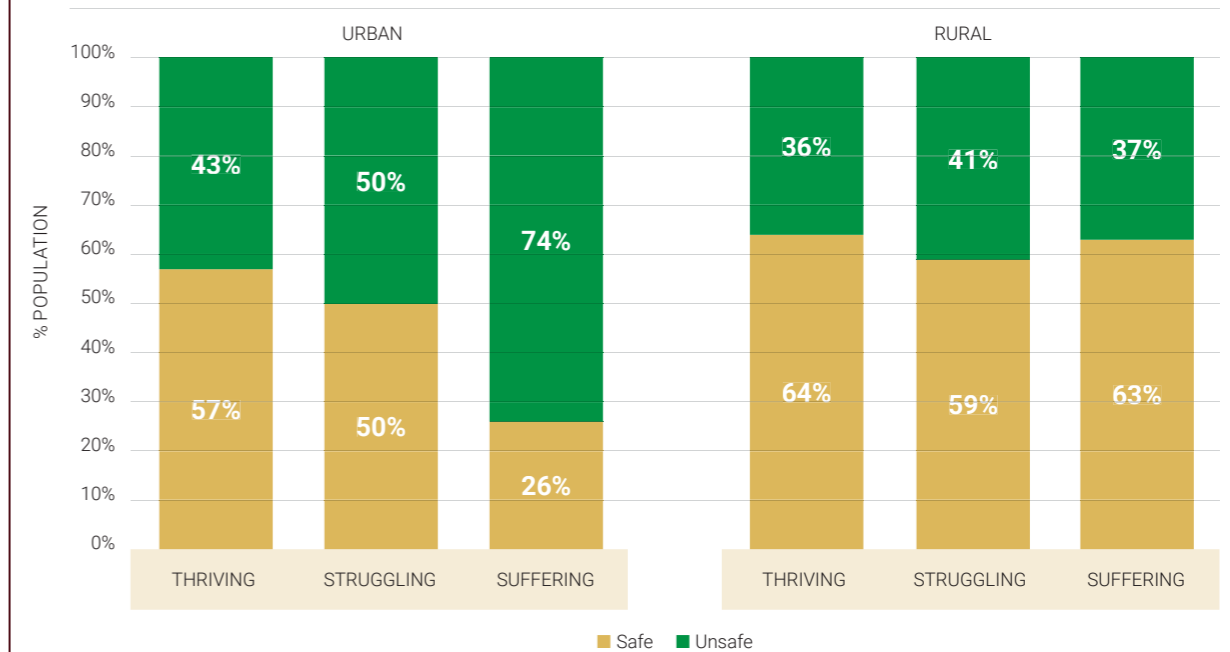
SEX		
Male		66%
Female		53%
AGE		
15-30		58%
31-64		61%
65 and over		57%
MARITAL STATUS (15+)		
Never Married		58%
Married		60%
De Facto		59%
Divorced/Separated		63%
Widowed		57%
EDUCATION ATTAINMENT		
None or Kindy		68%
Primary (Class 6)		59%
Primary (Class 8)		58%
Jr Secondary		58%
Sr Secondary		57%
Post Secondary, University		63%

The NSDP Baseline Survey asked people ages 15 and over if they would feel safe to walk alone in their community after dark. More than half, 60%, of people feel they would be safe from violent attack if walking alone in their community after dark. The place with the greatest proportion of people feeling safe in this situation is Tafea Province, where 85% of people feel they would be safe from an attack after dark. People living in Luganville were far less likely to report feeling safe in their community. A slight majority, 51%, of people ages 15 and over in Malampa Province felt unsafe in that situation. Belief and fear in black magic may be a contributing factor to one's feeling of safety in this situation.

There is a sizeable difference between the sexes. Two-thirds, 66%, of men and boys ages 15 and higher feel safe walking alone in their community after dark, compared to just 53% of women and girls. This reflects a fear of violent physical or sexual attack that is more prevalent in women and girls than it is in men and boys. Men in Vanuatu society can stand to make improvements to safety in communities by strongly decrying violence of any kind against women and helping to break the chain of learned behaviors with the new generation.

Security is an interest of the collective. If you live in a place where you feel safe and secure, it is likely that your neighbors will feel the same way. In secure areas, everyone is looking out for everyone's safety, and not just the safety and security of the household. Tales of missing chickens, stolen crops, or destroyed property can be found in all communities in Vanuatu. Incidence of theft or vandalism can reduce trust among members of a community if justice is not served through community leader intervention or through police intervention. Prevalence of such events can signal a troubled community and frame the perspective an individual has for their community and quality of life.

Figure 118 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and feeling safe to walk alone in one's area/community



Thriving individuals are more likely to feel safe in their community or area when walking alone after dark. This is particularly true in urban areas, where there is a suffering population that feels largely unsafe walking in their own neighborhood.

Figure 119 % Population age 15+ that experience discrimination of any kind annually by area and group

	POPULATION
NATIONAL	16%
URBAN	12%
Port Vila	9%
Luganville	23%
RURAL	18%
Torba	32%
Sanma Rural	28%
Penama	23%
Malampa	14%
Shefa Rural	14%
Tafea	5%
SEX	
Male	15%
Female	17%
AGE	
15-30	13%
31-64	18%
65 and over	16%

MARITAL STATUS (15+)	
Never Married	10%
Married	18%
De Facto	19%
Divorced/Separated	37%
Widowed	21%
EDUCATION ATTAINMENT	
None or Kindy	17%
Primary (Class 6)	20%
Primary (Class 8)	15%
Jr Secondary	14%
Sr Secondary	13%
Post Secondary, University	8%

The Public Service Commission of Vanuatu included a question on discrimination in a recent survey of public servants. The question has been adapted to report against SDG 16. An estimated 16% of ni-Vanuatu ages 15 and over have experienced discrimination in the last 12 months on the basis of their race, place of national or ethnic origin, color, religion, age, sex or sexual orientation, marital or family status, or disability.

Prevalence of perceived discrimination varies from place to place in Vanuatu. More Luganville residents perceive discrimination than do Port Vila residents. The prevalence decreased in rural areas moving from the north to the south, with 32% reporting to have experienced discrimination of some kind in Torba Province, compared to just 5% in Tafea Province.

Those that have been divorced or separated were much more likely to report having experienced discrimination of some kind within the 12 months leading up to the survey. It may help to understand the kinds of discrimination that people experienced to make sense of why it may be different for certain groups or in certain parts of the country.

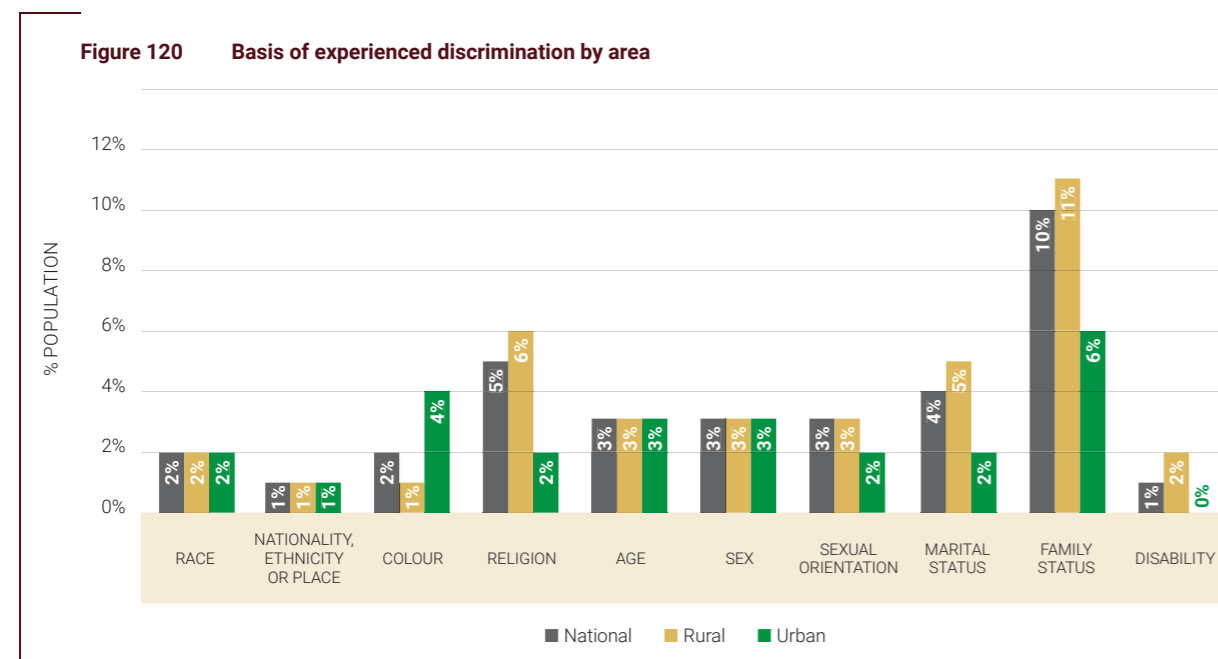
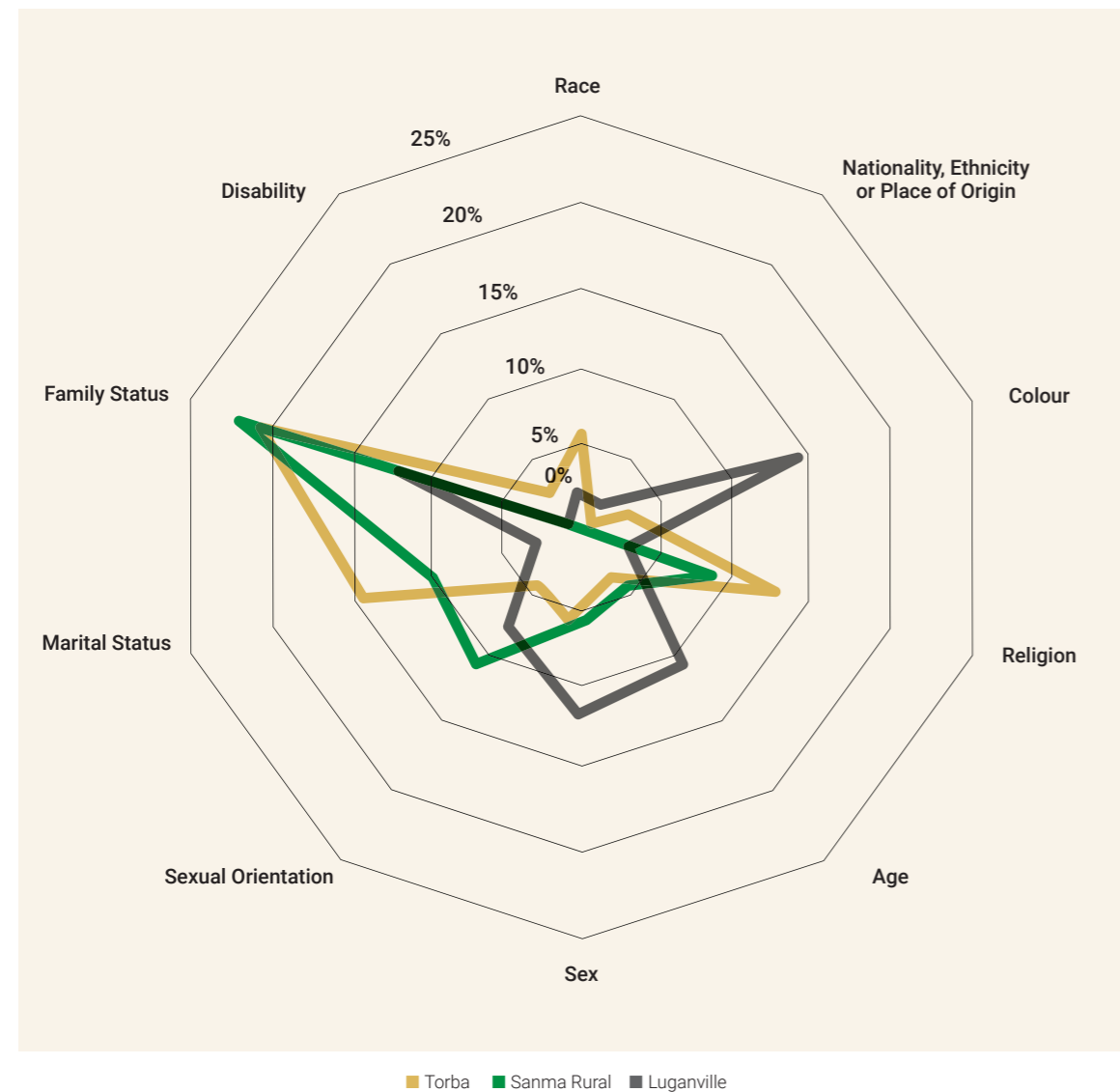


Table 16 % Population and bases of experienced discrimination by area and group

	NATIONALITY, RACE	ETHNICITY OR PLACE OF ORIGIN	SKIN COLOUR	RELIGION	AGE	SEX	SEXUAL ORIENTATION	MARITAL STATUS	FAMILY STATUS	DISABILITY
NATIONAL	2%	1%	2%	5%	3%	3%	3%	4%	10%	1%
RURAL	2%	1%	1%	6%	3%	3%	3%	5%	11%	2%
Torba	6%	1%	3%	13%	4%	6%	4%	14%	21%	3%
Sanma Rural	1%	0%	1%	9%	5%	6%	11%	10%	22%	1%
Penama	1%	1%	0%	5%	3%	3%	2%	4%	10%	7%
Malampa	2%	1%	2%	7%	3%	3%	1%	4%	7%	1%
Shefa Rural	3%	1%	3%	5%	3%	1%	0%	3%	9%	1%
Tafea	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	0%
URBAN	2%	1%	4%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	6%	0%
Luganville	2%	2%	14%	3%	11%	12%	7%	3%	12%	1%
Port Vila	3%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%	2%	5%	0%
SEX										
Male	2%	1%	2%	5%	2%	2%	2%	4%	9%	1%
Female	2%	1%	3%	5%	3%	4%	3%	5%	10%	1%
AGE										
15-30	2%	0%	2%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	8%	1%
31-64	2%	1%	2%	6%	3%	3%	3%	5%	12%	1%
65 and over	2%	1%	2%	4%	4%	2%	2%	4%	10%	3%
MARITAL STATUS (15+)										
Never Married	1%	0%	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	1%	5%	1%
Married	2%	1%	2%	6%	3%	3%	3%	5%	11%	1%
De Facto	3%	1%	3%	4%	3%	2%	2%	6%	12%	1%
Divorced/Separated	4%	1%	4%	7%	6%	5%	6%	24%	24%	2%
Widowed	2%	1%	2%	5%	4%	3%	2%	4%	13%	3%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT (15+)										
None or Kindy	2%	1%	2%	4%	3%	2%	3%	4%	11%	2%
Primary (Class 6)	2%	1%	2%	7%	3%	3%	3%	5%	13%	2%
Primary (Class 8)	1%	1%	2%	5%	3%	3%	3%	4%	9%	1%
Jr Secondary	2%	1%	2%	4%	3%	3%	2%	4%	8%	0%
Sr Secondary	2%	1%	2%	4%	3%	2%	2%	4%	8%	0%
Post Secondary, University	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	3%	4%	1%

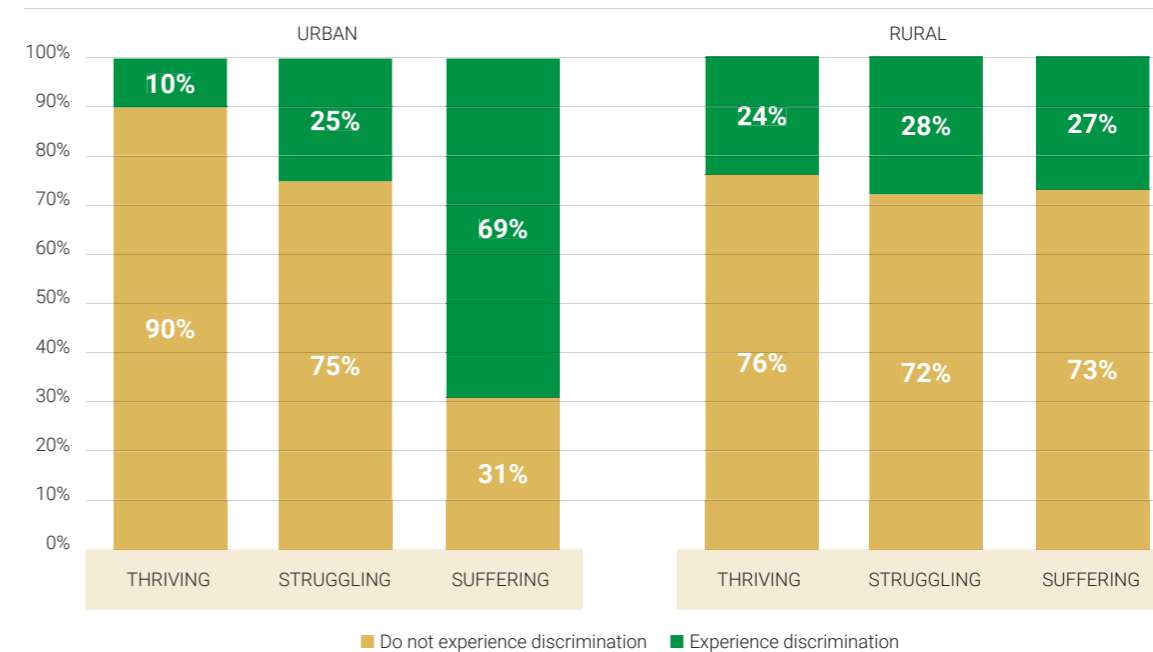
One out of every 10 people ages 15 and over reported experiencing discrimination based on their family status. On this basis, discrimination may be felt when there is a level of material inequality among families within a community. For example, a young person from a family without significant land holdings may face discrimination from the family of the woman he seeks to marry. Another example may be that people feel discriminated against if they see others benefiting from their own family status—feelings of unfair distribution of resources following a natural disaster, or political affiliation benefits. These are only a few ways in which one can understand discrimination based on family status in Vanuatu.

Figure 121 Basis of experienced discrimination in areas where it is most prevalent



The predominant basis of perceived discrimination changes from place to place. Family status is the main driver of experienced discrimination in both Torba and rural Sanma Province, and religion is more a factor of experienced well-being in rural areas than in urban centers. Luganville residents were more likely to have experienced discrimination based on color, age, and sex.

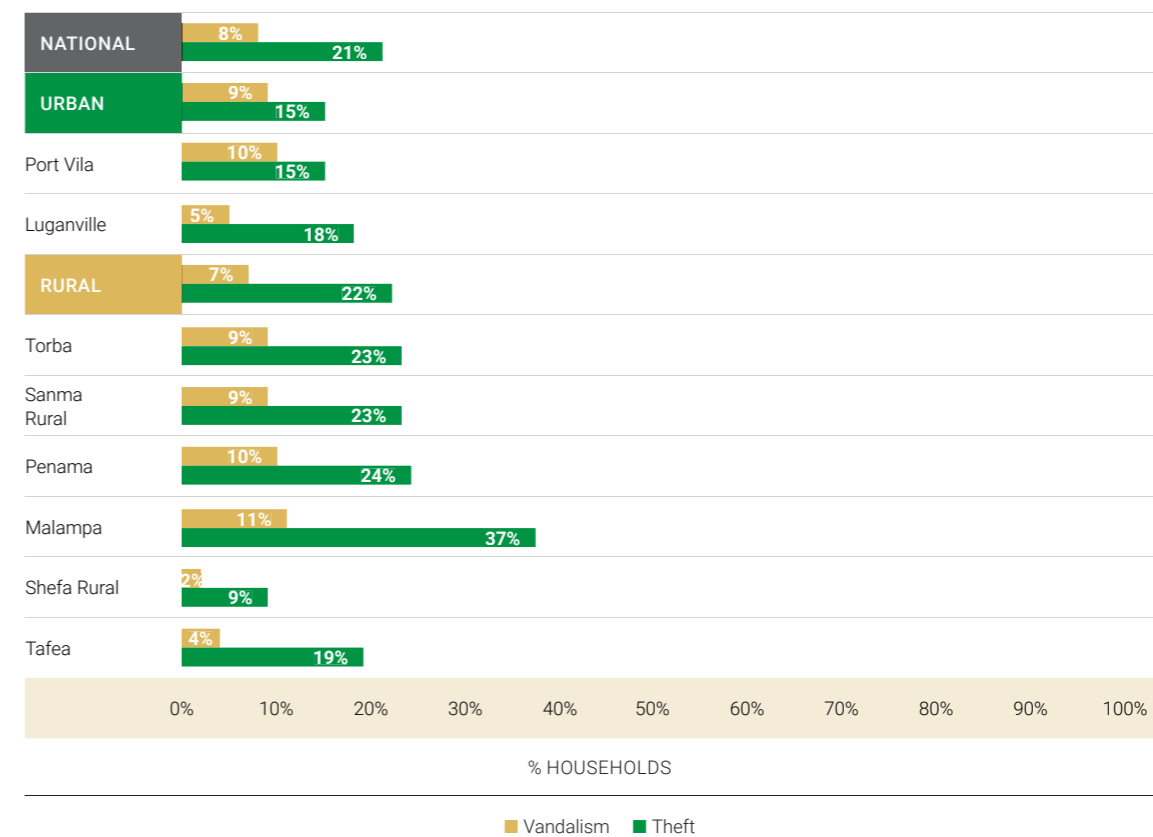
Figure 122 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and experienced discrimination



Thriving individuals are less likely to have reported feeling discriminated against on any basis, particularly in urban centers. Programs aimed at reducing discrimination will be beneficial to the well-being of those living in urban areas.

Theft and vandalism can disrupt the peace within a community, particularly if incidents are not handled and justice is not served.

Figure 123 % Households reporting at least one incident of theft and/or vandalism annually by area



A large majority, 79%, of households in Vanuatu reported no incidents of theft in the 12 months leading up to the survey. Incidents of theft tend to be more prevalent in rural areas, with the exception of rural Shefa Province where less than 10% of households reported at least one incident within the recall period. More than one-third of households in Malampa Province, 37%, reported at least one incident of theft—the highest in Vanuatu.

Vandalism, or the destruction or defacing of one's property, was reported by fewer households and is less pervasive than theft. Only 8% of households in Vanuatu reported at least one incident of vandalism in the 12 months leading up to the survey. Malampa Province leads in incidents of vandalism, but not by as much as their lead in theft incidents. A household in Malampa Province is nearly 6 times more likely to have reported at least one incident of theft or vandalism than a household in rural Shefa Province.

Traditional Governance

The satisfaction or level of trust people have in the government and those delivering services is a reflection on the quality of governance to which people have access. This is illustrated in relation to government services in Chapter 2. Traditional governance offers a different set of services that are community oriented. Traditional leaders have distinct roles to play in their communities and members of their communities should have opportunities to voice their level of satisfaction with the performance of their leaders.

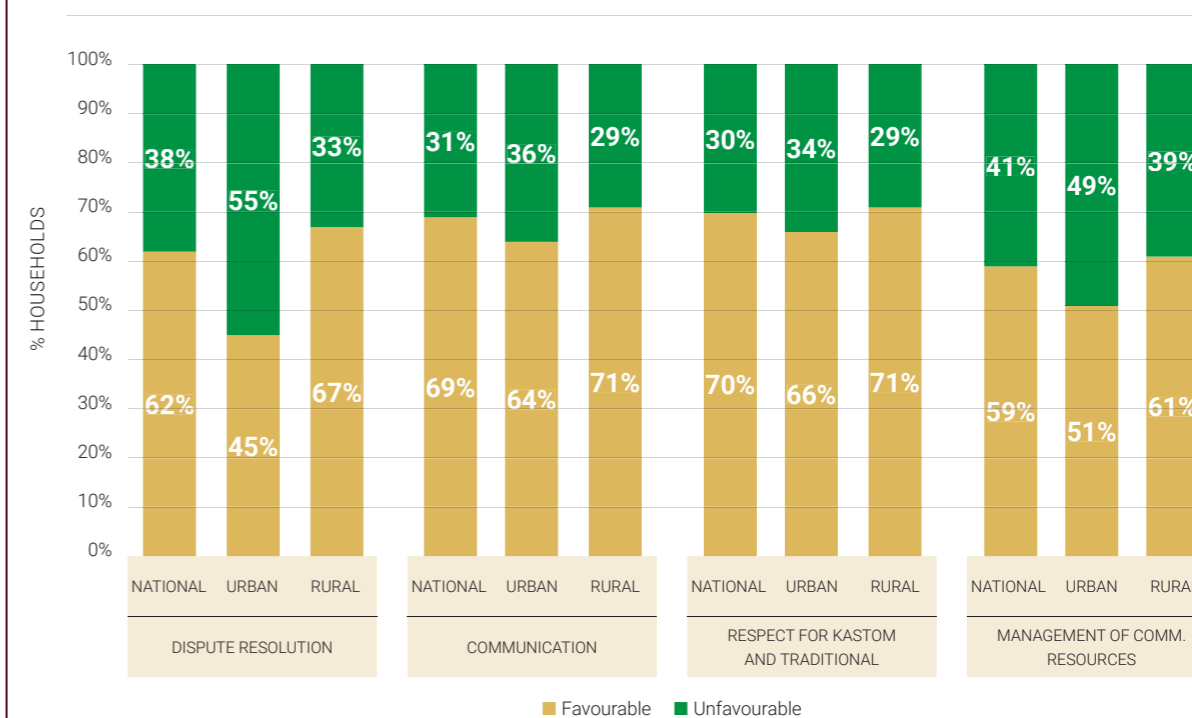
Most communities have meetings and gatherings that provide opportunities for individuals to be heard. Agency refers to the capacity of individuals to act independently and to make their own free choices. The agency of an individual can be influenced by age, gender, religion, family status, and other factors that can determine or limit an individual or their decisions. One's agency may or may not have an impact on decisions made in a community setting.

Leadership

Chiefs play a vital role in governing communities in Vanuatu. Some chiefs obtain their title and responsibilities through their family line, while some follow a rigid system of rank or grade taking ceremonies. Other chiefs are elected by their communities to take on chiefly responsibilities. Chiefs have responsibilities representing their people and communicating clearly, maintaining peace and order in the community, looking after and protecting community resources and demonstrating respect for traditions. Chiefs provide these services for members of their community without cash payment. The NSDP Baseline Survey asked members of the household to indicate their level of satisfaction with their chiefs in these four key areas.



Figure 124 Favorable assessments of Chiefs performance by area



Chiefs received the highest favorability for their respect for customs and traditions, with 70% of households reporting positive assessments in this performance area. Management of community resources received the lowest national average favorability, although nearly 60% gave favorable assessments of their chief's resource management. Urban households gave more unfavorable assessments overall of their chief's ability to resolve disputes, while 67% of rural households had more favorable assessments in this performance area.

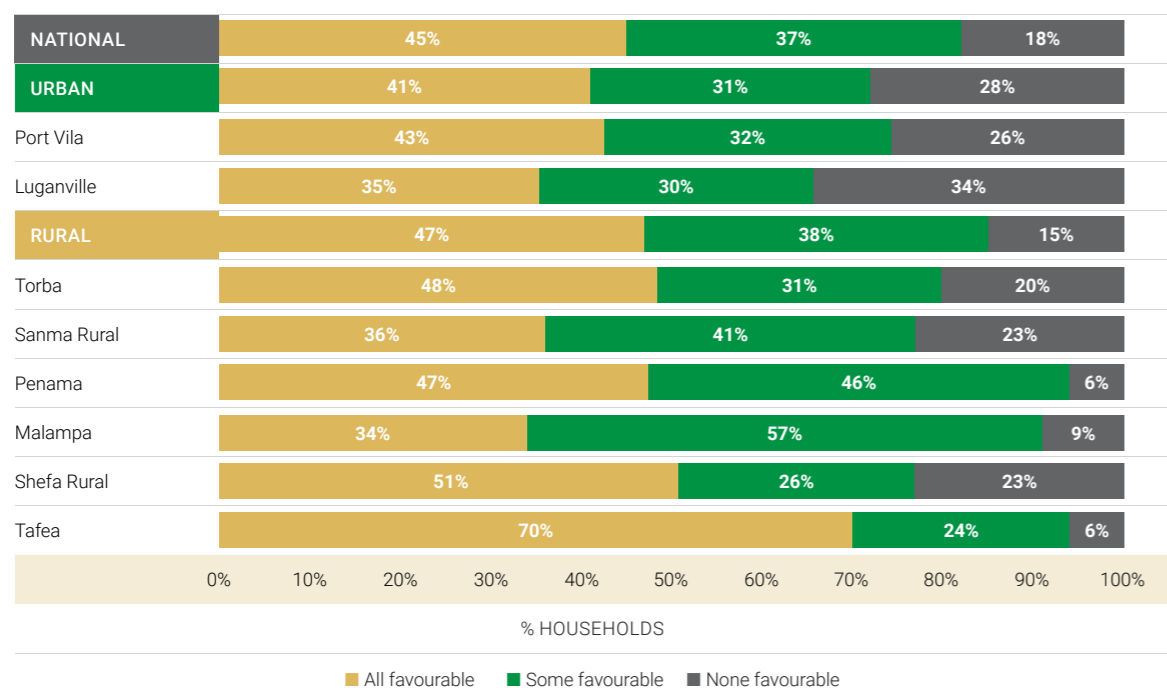
Table 17 Favorable assessments of Chiefs performance by group

	DISPUTE RESOLUTION	COMMUNICATION	RESPECT FOR KASTOM AND TRADITIONS	MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES
National	62%	69%	70%	59%
SEX OF HH HEAD				
Male	64%	71%	71%	60%
Female	57%	66%	68%	57%
AGE OF HH HEAD				
30 and under	61%	68%	69%	59%
31-64	61%	69%	70%	58%
65 and over	65%	72%	73%	62%
EDUCATION OF HH HEAD				
Primary or less	65%	72%	73%	62%
Jr Secondary or more	55%	64%	65%	54%
HH EXPENDITURE QUINTILE				
0% - 20%	76%	77%	75%	66%

20% - 40%	68%	74%	72%	60%
40% - 60%	59%	67%	68%	57%
60% - 80%	57%	64%	69%	58%
80% - 100%	53%	66%	68%	55%

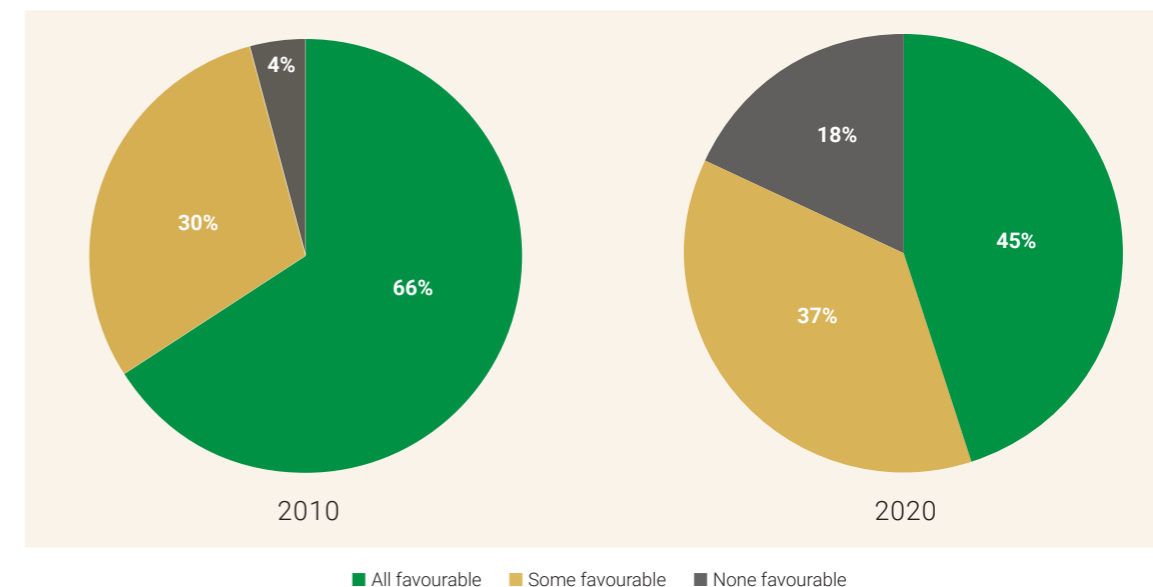
Households headed by men were more likely to provide positive assessments of their chief's performance in all four categories asked than households headed by women. The age of the household head also affected the assessments, with those ages 65 and higher more likely to provide positive assessments of their chiefs in all four performance categories than did households with younger heads. Households headed by individuals that attained a Junior Secondary level education or higher, and those in higher income quintiles, had lower assessments of their chiefs in all four categories than those with less income or having attained lower levels of formal education.

Figure 125 Overall assessment of Chiefs performance by area



Less than half, 45%, of households in Vanuatu gave their chiefs favorable assessments in all four of the categories asked. The same is true in all areas except for rural areas of Shefa Province and Tafea Province, where 51% and 70% of households respectively gave positive assessments of their chiefs in all four categories. Over a third, 34%, of households in Luganville gave their chiefs negative assessments in all four categories, far above the national average of 18%. Households in urban areas and the rural areas of Sanma and Shefa Provinces had the highest rate of fully negative assessments of their chiefs across the country.

Figure 126 Change in overall assessment of Chiefs performance since 2010

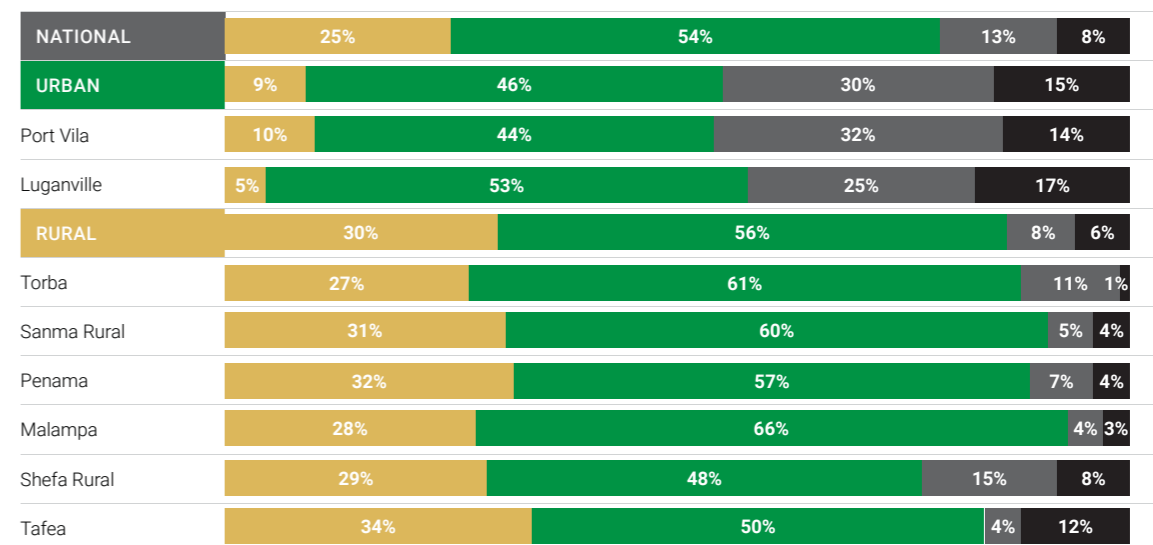


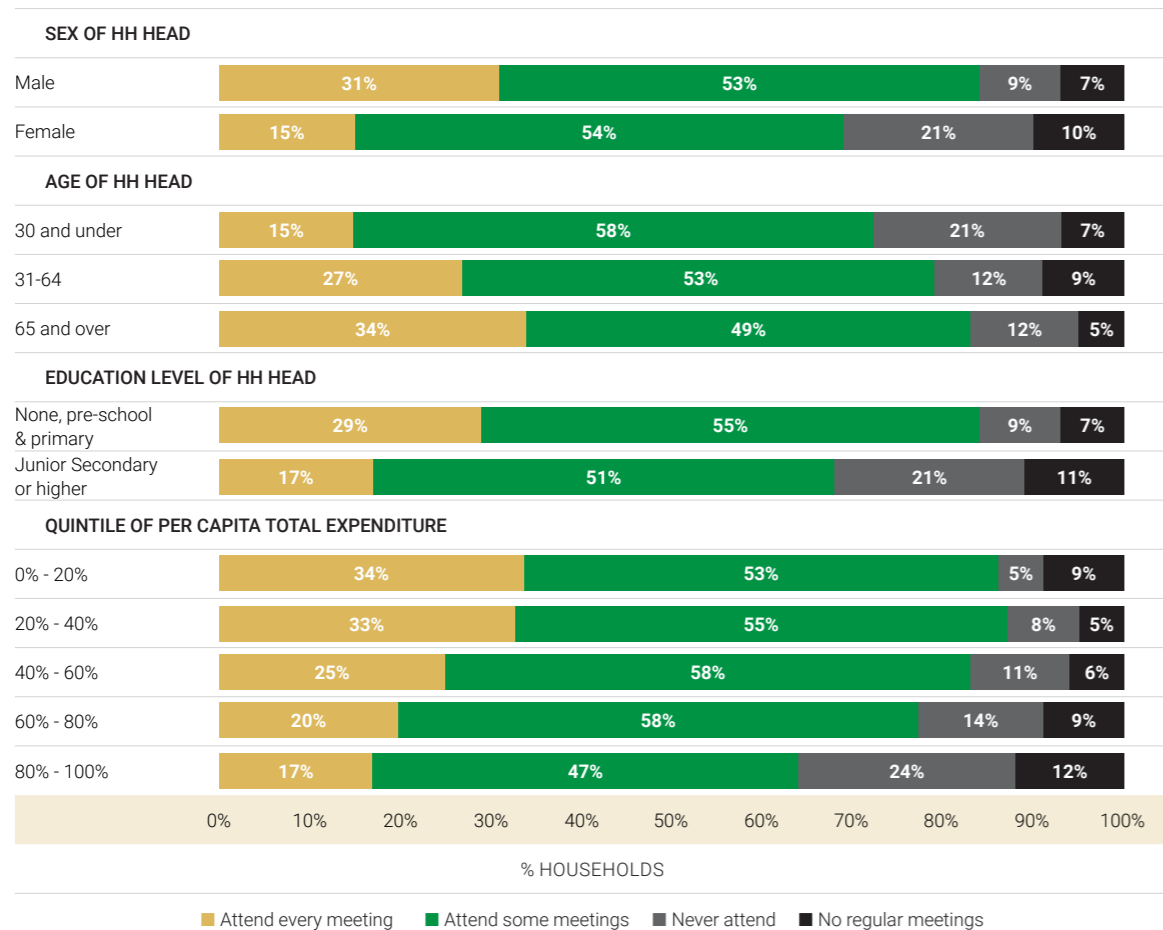
There has been a drop of over 20% in overall favorable assessments of chiefs' performances in Vanuatu from 2010 to 2020. How people perceive their chief's performance in these areas are important indicators of the strength of traditional governance. Traditional leaders in Vanuatu need to consider ways to restore respect and maintain order in their communities.

Community Meetings

Attendance at community meetings is not mandatory in communities that hold them, however, it is generally considered good practice to attend as a show of respect to community leaders and other community members. When communities are cooperative and supportive, attendance at community meetings is high. Individual attendance is an indicator of community orientation—those that regularly attend meetings value being a part of their community more than those that never attend.

Figure 127 Household community meeting attendance by area





Fewer than 10% of households in Vanuatu are in communities that do not have regular meetings. A clear majority of households, 79%, have members attending some or all community meetings. Community meetings are more normally a feature in rural parts of the country, although communities in town do have their own meetings and support each other. Under a third, 30%, of households in rural areas had members attending every community meeting, compared to just 9% of urban households.

Nearly a third, 30%, of households in urban centers never attend regular community meetings. This may be due to the costs associated with attending (i.e. transportation, communication, contribution requirements), or it could be due to communication issues in town. It is easier to conduct community meetings in rural areas where word of mouth is free and efficient and the venue is within everyone's walking distance.

Households headed by men are twice as likely to attend every community meeting than households headed by women. The members of 21% of households headed by women never attend regular community meetings. This may reflect a lack of voice in the community.

Attendance is steadier for households headed by older individuals. Over one third of households headed by individuals ages 65 and over attend every community meeting, compared with just 15% of households headed by individuals ages 30 and under.

Greater income is related to location, with more monetized households living in or around urban centers. Urban communities are less likely to hold community meetings. As greater income is related to location, with more monetized households living in or around urban centers, it is not surprising to see the relationship between higher income and reduced attendance at community meetings at the national level.

Agency

The NSDP Baseline Survey asked people age 15 and over to indicate the level of agreement they have, using a 0-10 scale, with the following statement: "I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area/community".

Figure 128 Mean level of agreement, 0-10, with statement, "I am able to influence decisions that affect my local area/community" by area and group

	VALUE	AGREE LESS	AGREE MORE	DIFFERENCE
NATIONAL	5.96			
URBAN	5.23			-0.74
Port Vila	5.26			-0.70
Luganville	5.03			-0.93
RURAL	6.27			0.31
Torba	6.50			0.54
Sanma Rural	5.29			-0.68
Penama	7.41			1.44
Malampa	7.31			1.35
Shefa Rural	5.23			-0.73
Tafea	5.58			-0.38
SEX				
Male	6.22			0.26
Female	5.70			-0.26
AGE				
15-30	5.75			-0.21
31-64	6.15			0.19
65 and over	5.86			-0.10
MARITAL STATUS				
Never married	5.61			-0.35
Married	6.11			0.15
De facto	5.94			-0.02
Divorced/separated	5.88			-0.09
Widowed	5.79			-0.17
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT				
None or kindy	5.78			-0.19
Primary through Class 6	6.31			0.35
Primary through Class 8	5.88			-0.08
Jr Secondary	5.75			-0.22
Sr Secondary	5.68			-0.28
Post Secondary, University	5.51			-0.46

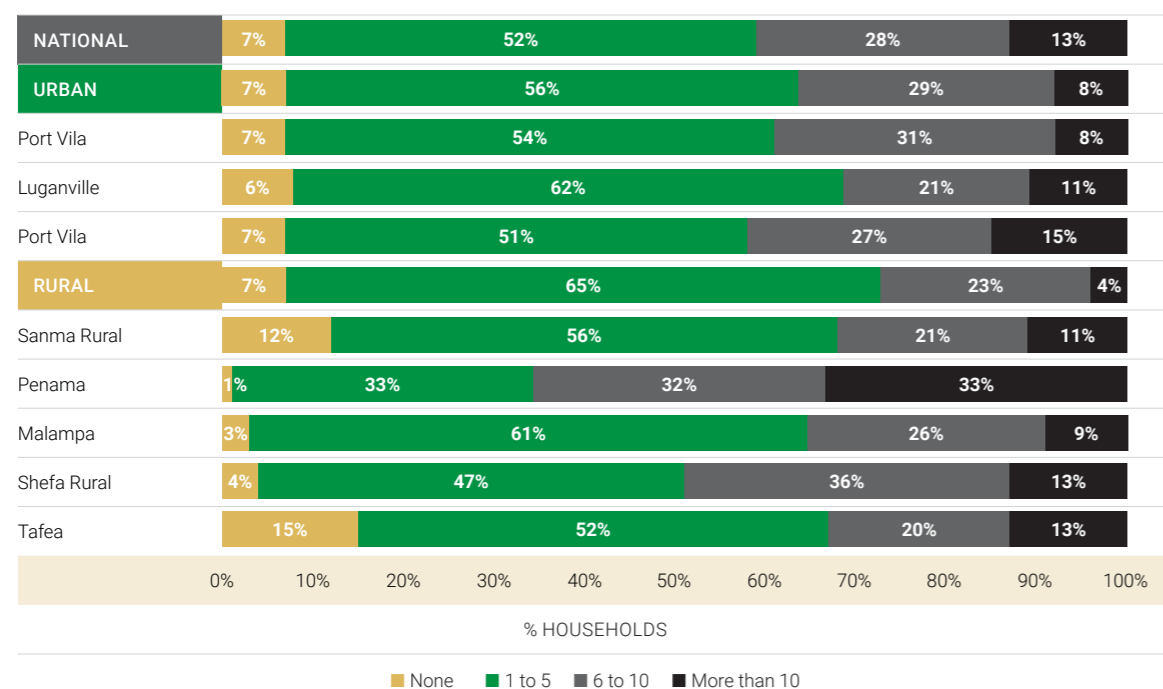
The national mean level of agreement with the statement on agency was 5.96, with variations on the level of agreement from place to place. People living in the two urban centers, rural Shefa, rural Sanma, and Tafea Provinces had lower average levels of agreement than the national mean. People living in Penama, Malampa, and Torba Provinces registered higher levels of agreement. Agency is greater in areas where there is less population density and in areas where there are regular community meeting and opportunities for voices to be heard.

Variation in the level of agreement is less prominent when looking at different population groups. Subtle difference suggest that agency is enjoyed more by males than by females ages 15 and higher. Married people reported a higher mean level of agreement with the statement than those that were not married, which makes some sense in Vanuatu. People that are married enjoy more agency than do those that are unmarried, single, divorced or widowed. Agency appears to decrease with higher levels of educational attainment. This is likely due to the nature of formal education requiring that people spend more time away from their communities at higher levels.

Ceremonial Participation

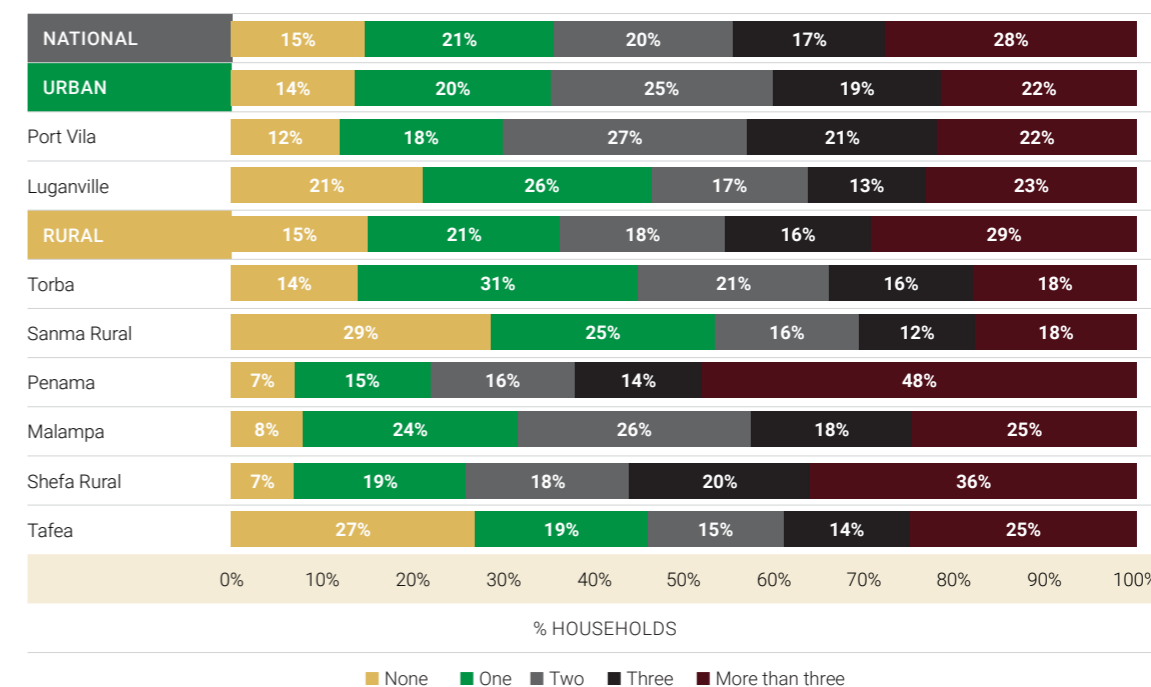
We know that there exists a household demand for items of traditional exchange value in order to participate in ceremonial activities. Participating in circumcision, marriage, death, and other rites of passage in Vanuatu does not always require items of exchange value. For example, the time and labor given by a young person to help prepare a feast, erect a shelter or cut firewood for a ceremony is invaluable. Being present and working with the collective has value in and of itself. Ceremonial experience through regular participation reinforces traditional knowledge and builds a better understanding of social norms.

Figure 129 Annual number of ceremonies with household participation by area



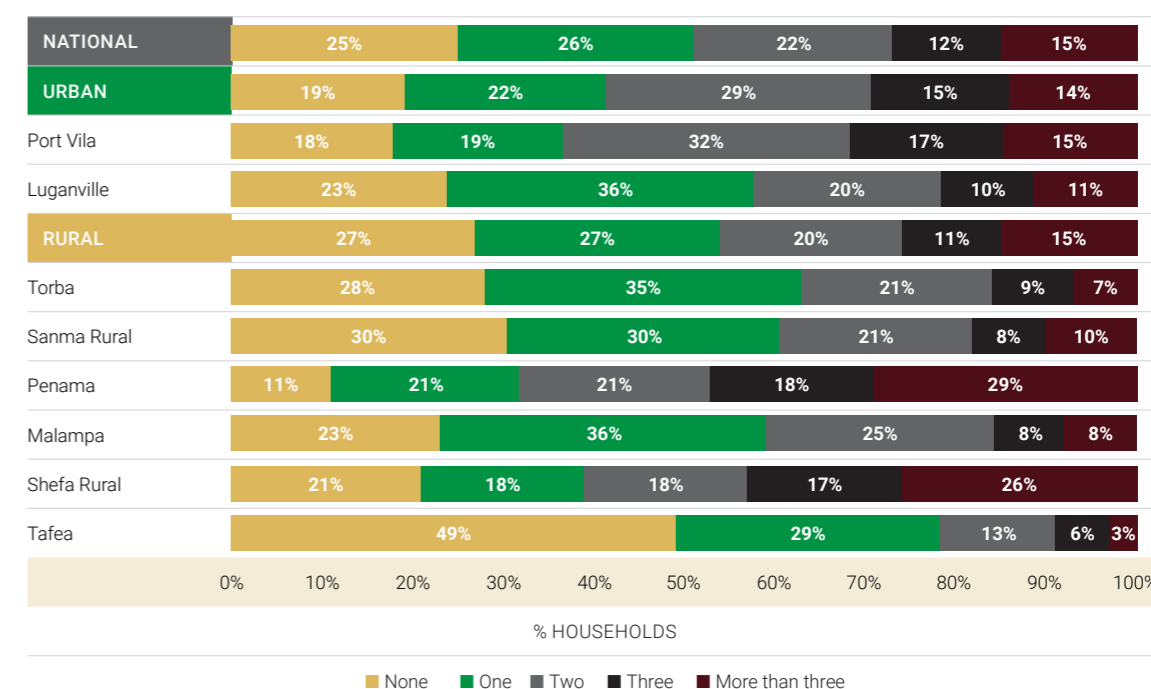
It is not always possible for all members of a household to participate in all ceremonies where there may be a social obligation to do so. Individuals represent their household and, indeed, their larger family group when they participate in ceremonial acts. Representation, by at least one member of the family, is important for maintaining reciprocity and respect within the community. A great majority, 93%, of households in Vanuatu had members participating in ceremonial activities within the 12-month recall period. Nearly two-thirds, 65%, of households in Penama Province had members participating in more than five ceremonies in the year leading up to the survey.

Figure 130 Average annual number of death or funeral ceremonies households participate in by area



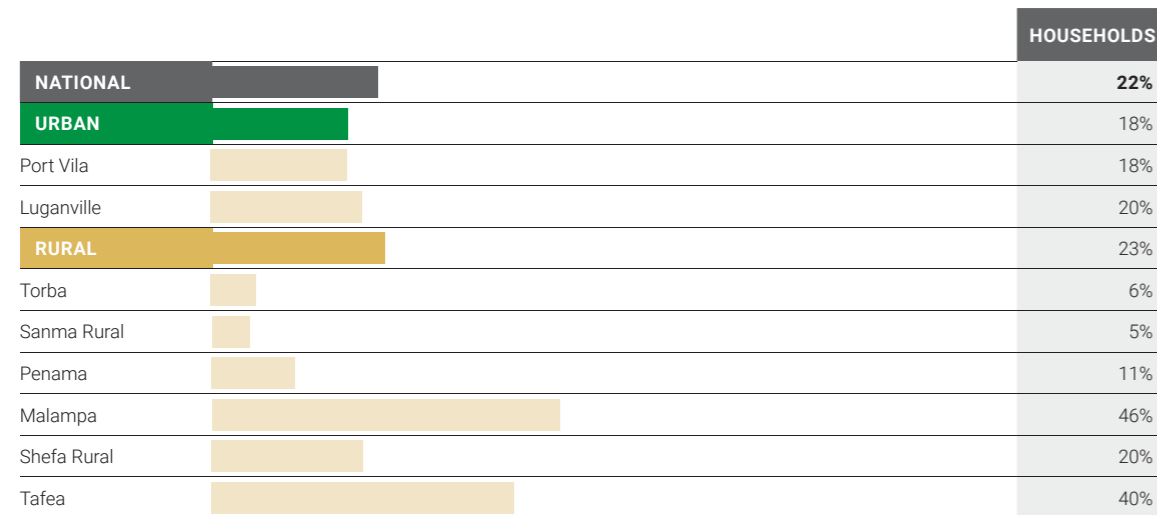
Death rites and the rituals that surround them are, by their very nature, the most common ceremonial activity happening in Vanuatu. Participation typically involves contributions of food and time to grieve with the immediate family of the individual who passes. It could also involve providing support with cooking for the grieving masses, supplying meat, or a more direct role in preparing the body for burial, digging the grave, or preparing the life history of the relative that passed. A household participating is a sign of respect to the family that lost a loved one. For some places, depending on the individual that passed, there can be rituals for a week, a month, 100 days, or a year. On average, the typical household in Vanuatu will participate in nearly three death ceremonies a year. More than a quarter, 28%, of households will participate in more than three each year. We see higher overall participation in death ceremonies among households in Penama and rural Shefa Provinces. Lower participation is true for both rural Sanma Province and Luganville households.

Figure 131 Average annual number of wedding or marriage ceremonies households participate in by area



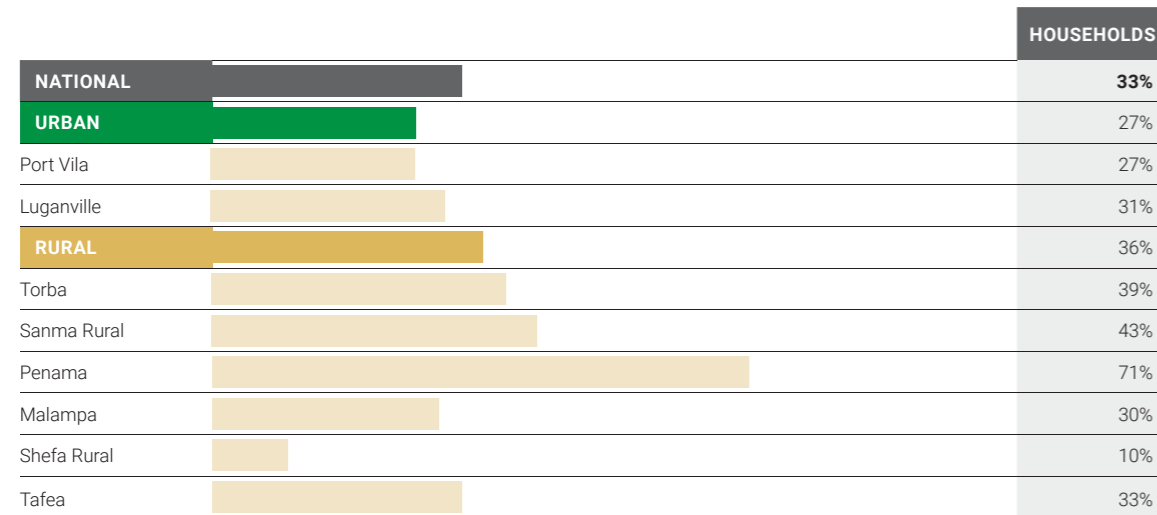
The average household in Vanuatu will have members participating in two weddings each year. Weddings have a number of different cultural rituals surrounding them that require preparation. Participation typically means contributing time and labor in preparation for the wedding. A person might be asked to support with cutting firewood or with food preparation, for example, or with construction of temporary shelters. More directly, one could be supporting the groom with the materials required for traditional payments to the family of the bride. They could be supporting the bride with gifts to start a new life with her husband. Households in Penama and rural Shefa Provinces had the highest participation rates in the country, with over a quarter of households in each area reporting to have participated in more than three weddings over the course of the year.

Figure 132 % Households participating in at least one circumcision ceremony in a year by area



Households with members participating in circumcision ceremonies were more common in Malampa and Tafea Provinces. Circumcision ceremonies are not as commonly practiced in other parts of the country. Participation could mean provision of food to those caring for the young men while they are away, or spending time looking after them while they are away. People from Malampa and Tafea living in urban centers likely are driving urban participation higher. As with other ceremonial activity, those living in town still have social obligations to participate.

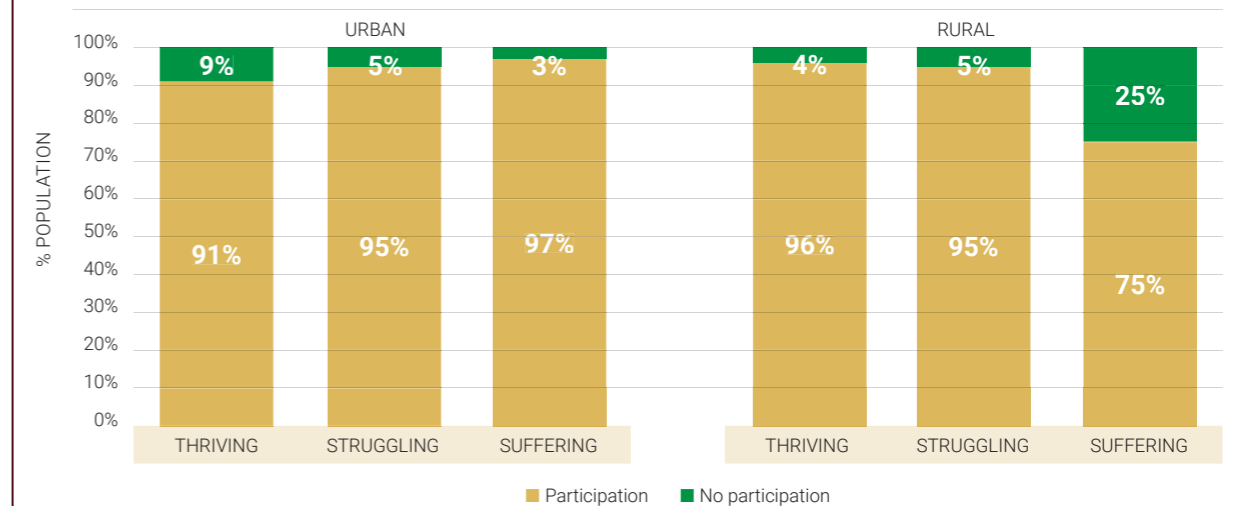
Figure 133 % Households with participation in at least one rank/grade taking, or peace/reconciliation ceremony in a year by



Rank or grade-taking ceremonies involve rites of chiefly titles. Peace or reconciliation ceremonies are common when disputes have reached a resolution. A third, 33%, of all households in Vanuatu have had members participating in at least one of these other ceremonies. It is likely that the proportion of households in Penama Province would be higher than elsewhere given the relatively thriving system of chiefly grade-taking that routinely takes place across the province. Nearly three-quarters, 71%, of households in Penama Province had members participating in grade-taking, or in peacekeeping ceremonies.

Ceremonial participation can be costly for households. The Malvatumauri National Council of Chiefs (MNCC) have decried the use of cash (vatu) in ceremonial exchanges, claiming it devalues the meaning and purpose of the exchange. Despite the calls to revert to exchanges that follow traditional rules exclusively, the practice of giving cash gifts as part of traditional exchange continues in much of the country. Adopted cultural norms, such as that of a chest filled with housewares given to a woman marrying out, or the use of calico and blankets when burying a loved one, require cash spending.

Figure 134 Thriving, Struggling, Suffering and ceremonial participation



Ceremonial participation is part of normal life in Vanuatu, however, roughly 6% of the population live in households that do not participate in any traditional ceremonial activities. Ceremonial participation is a condition for thriving in both urban and rural areas and those that do not participate in rural areas are more likely to suffer.

Well-being and Social Resilience

Good health, access to economic resources (land and natural resources, employment/income, and financial services) and having the knowledge to be productive with those resources are conditions for living a thriving life in Vanuatu. Happier individuals also tend to have better health outcomes. Pro well-being policies are pro-health policies, and vice versa.

Being part of a supportive and giving community where there is trust, safety, and where individuals feel they can influence decisions are also part of the well-being equation in Vanuatu. Traditional leaders should try to improve their services to urban residents where possible, keeping them engaged and feeling like a part of the community that is the source of their cultural identity. Those that choose not to be helpful and supportive to others, or not to participate in ceremonial activities, are starting to reflect adverse impacts on their own well-being. Communities need to be committed to working together, supporting one another, and building social resilience. The collective is able to thrive when members of a community or urban neighborhood cooperate, support each other, and have respect for one another.

