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Q1 VANUATU

Respondent (Country or Customs Territory)

Q2

About you

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Q3

Does your national development strategy, policy or plan include trade priorities (i.e., Aid-for-Trade priorities)?

Yes,

Additional information on the trade (or Aid-for-Trade priorities) included in your national development strategy, policy or plan (or other trade-related policy document).: Vanuatu's Trade Policy Framework lists AfT as an essential element. The Vanuatu Sustainable Development Policy Framework, the overall Vanuatu Policy plan covers AfT in the various pillars. It places a high importance to advancing the need to ensure AfT in all the areas identified in AfT coverage.

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If yes, please highlight what these Aid-for-Trade priorities are:Below are listed the most common priority areas grouped according to broad Aid-for-Trade categories. Please rank the top priority areas among the ones listed below (1 being the most important).

Building productive capacity	1
Connecting to value chains	4
E-commerce	5
MSMEs growth and development	3
Transport infrastructure (airport, roads, rail, port)	2

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Q5 Yes,

Have your Aid-for-Trade priorities changed since 2019?

Additional information: please specify which of the priorities you selected are new and provide further information. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).: Productive capacity has moved higher in Vanuatu's priorities - arising out from Covid-19 environment and disaster risk considerations (from natural disasters and induced climate change effects). There is a renewed focus on productive capacity for our agriculture sector, MSMEs and the domestic economy since exports of goods and services supply chain to export markets being severely hampered. The Government has now shifted its focus to the other areas of focus including: - Trade Facilitation - Capacity Building Training for officials on trade agreements (e.g. LDC Graduation implications) - Ecommerce

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If yes, please identify the top drivers of change in your Aid-for-Trade priorities from the list below: (Please select no more than 5 options from the areas listed below).

2030 Sustainable Development Goals,

Economic and trade impact of COVID-19 pandemic,

E-commerce development (and digital transformation)

Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) Implementation,
MSMEs growth and development objectives,

Additional information on the top 5 drivers of change in your Aid-for-Trade priorities since 2019, including in relation to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on your economy.:

Natural disaster and climate change induced. The reality of increased incidence of natural disasters in cyclones, droughts, floods, volcanic eruptions and ashes, sea level rise has caused Vanuatu to make these changes. There is a need to quickly review policies. Economic diversification is also high on the priorities.

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Q7

Has Aid for Trade become more or less important to your government since 2019?

More,

Additional information on the reasons why Aid for Trade may have become more, less, or remained equally important to your government than in the past.:

There is a changing domestic and global trading environment that we must adjust. The increased movement of persons from the the rural to urban areas and changing work patterns and dynamics in rural means some changes to address the urban population needed some attention. The need for physical infrastructure needs remains an extremely high priority. The need for AfT has not diminished after Vanuatu's graduation from LDC to Developing Countries in 2020. There is in fact more need as access to AfT to Vanuatu can be threatened by it's graduation.

Q8

Have these changes been reflected in your dialogue with development partners?

Yes,

Additional information on how changes in your Aid-for-Trade priorities may have been reflected in your dialogue with development partners.:

Development partners are already adjusting to these changes. The Development Partners are being informed of the Government's priorities and therefore their support is directed to those areas. Vanuatu is willing to have more discussions and support with other development partners in the future.

Do you have a specific national strategy, policy or plan for economic recovery post COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes,

Additional information on the specific national strategy, policy or plan for economic recovery post COVID-19 pandemic. (Please provide weblinks as applicable).: There is a recognition that this must be addressed. Additional information on the specific national strategy, policy or plan for economic recovery post COVID-19 pandemic. Please follow the link to access more information: https://ndmo.gov.vu/covid-19.

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Q10

If yes, please indicate whether your strategy, policy or plan for economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic addresses any of the following areas: (You may tick more than one box).

Agricultural sector, food production and supply chain support

7

Building productive capacity,

Digital connectivity and transformation,

E-commerce,

Environmentally sustainable (or green) growth, including circular economy

,

Job creation,

Industrial sector support,

MSME support,

Poverty reduction objectives,

Preparedness, recovery and resilience,

Services sector support (e.g., tourism),

Trade facilitation,

Trade finance,

Trade policy modernization and upgrading,

Women's economic empowerment and gender equality

,

Youth economic empowerment

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Please provide names, titles, references or weblinks to policy documents relevant to Aid for Trade in your country.

- 1. National Sustainable Development Plan 2016-2030 (https://www.gov.vu/index.php/resources/vanuatu-2030)
- 2. National Trade Policy Framework Update 2019-2025 (https://enhancedif.org/system/tdf/uploads/tpfu-vanuatu.pdf? file=1&type=node&id=5919)
- 3. Post Disaster needs assessment Volume A & B (https://dsppac.gov.vu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=135&Itemid=363)

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Q12

Is the environmental dimension of sustainable development reflected in your national policy document(s), plan(s) or strategy(ies)?

Yes,

Additional information on how sustainable development is reflected in your national policy document(s), plan(s)or strategy(ies). (Please provide weblinks as applicable).: The National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) 2016-2030 has 3 major pillars one of which focuses on Environment. NSDP is the overarching policy for which all other government policies fall under. The Trade policy Framework update (TPFU) 2019-2025 which preceded the 2012 version has a full chapter dedicated to the environment aspect of Trade in the country.

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Q13

If yes, please indicate in which of your national strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s) sustainable development is reflected:(You may tick more than one box).

National development strategy, policy or plan,

National trade development strategy, policy or plan,

National export strategy, policy or plan,

National environmentally sustainable economy strategy (or green growth), policy or plan

National environmentally sustainable growth strategy, policy or plan

National sustainable trade strategy, policy or plan,

National strategy, policy or plan for COVID-19 recovery

Additional information on the national strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s) in which sustainable development is reflected.:

National development strategy, policy or plan, National trade development strategy, policy or plan, National environmentally sustainable economy strategy (or green growth), policy or plan

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Does your national development strategy, policy or plan explicitly target any of the following environment-specific goals? (You may tick more than one box).

Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7),

Climate Action (SDG 13),

Life Below Water (SDG 14),

Life on Land (SDG 15),

Additional information on the environment-specific goals and approaches such as financing, sharing of know-how, technology transfer (including sharing of know-how), promotion of value chain integration targeted by your national development strategy, policy or plan.:

Please follow this link to access more information: https://environment.gov.vu/index.php/environmentconventions-and-agreements/depc-policies

Q15 Yes

Does your national sustainable development strategy, policy, or plan include trade objectives?

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Q16

If yes, do the trade objectives address the environmental dimension of sustainable development?

Yes,

Additional information on how sustainable development is reflected in your national policy document(s), plan(s)or strategy(ies). (Please provide weblinks as applicable).: Sustainable development has NO room for shortcuts and threats to our environment. Please refer to the following links for more information: 1.

https://environment.gov.vu/index.php/environmentconventions-and-agreements/depc-policies 2. https://www.nab.vu/vanuatu-ocean-policy

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Q17

Does your government have a national committee (or has coordination or dialogues across ministries and agencies) on sustainable development that includes the Ministry of Trade?

Yes,

Additional information on how the Ministry of Trade is represented in your national committee on sustainable development.:

Fully functioning National Trade Development Committee (NTDC) which the ministry of Trade coordinates meets 3 times a year. This meeting brings together all government departments and ministries and non state actors to discuss issues relating to trade as well addressing the issues highlighted in the different government policies such as National Sustainable Development Plan and the Trade policy Framework.

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If yes, does that national committee address the environmental dimension of sustainable development?

Yes,

Additional information on how the national committee addresses the environmental dimension of sustainable development.:

It must do so as guided by policy.

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Q19

Please identify the economic sector(s) that would gain the most in terms of economic and export diversification as a result of the move to sustainable development? (You may tick more than 1 box). Agriculture,

Fisheries,

Forestry,

Industry,

Services

Q20 Agriculture,

Please identify the sector(s) of your economy that may face the biggest challenge from the move to sustainable development. (You may tick more than 1 box).

Fisheries,

Industry,

Services

In your view, what challenges constitute the main obstacles to the transition towards sustainable development in your country?(You may tick more than 1 box).

Access to finance,

Business climate,

Dependence on a narrow basket of goods and services

,

Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Existing energy and power generation infrastructure,

Existing transport infrastructure,

Gender inequality,

High concentration of economic activity in the informal sector

,

High trade costs,

Lack of data to support decision-making,

Limited agricultural processing capacity,

Low productive capacity in manufacturing,

Low productivity of agricultural sector,

Slow, expensive or insufficient digital connectivity,

Lack of technology and innovation enabling environment

,

Lack of technology transfer (including know-how)

Please highlight the main challenges that Aid for Trade should address to support a transition to sustainable development in your country? (You may tick more than 1 box)

Access to finance,

Business climate,

Dependence on a narrow basket of goods and services

,

Economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Existing energy and power generation infrastructure,

Existing transport infrastructure,

Gender inequality,

High trade costs,

Lack of data to support decision-making,

Lack of human resource capability,

Limited agricultural processing capacity,

Limited economic and export diversification,

Low productive capacity in manufacturing,

Low productivity of agricultural sector,

Slow, expensive or insufficient digital connectivity,

Social pressures (poverty, population growth),

Lack of technology and innovation enabling environment

,

Lack of technology transfer (including sharing of know-how)

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Q23 No

Do you have a circular economy strategy, policy, plan?

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Q24 Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which economic sectors does the circular economy strategy, policy, or plan cover?(You may tick more than 1 box).

Respondent skipped this question

Q25

If yes, does the circular economy strategy, policy, plan include trade objectives?

Yes

Is digital connectivity reflected as a priority in your national sustainable development strategy(ies), policy(ies), or plan(s)?

Q27

Yes

Do you have a national strategy, policy or plan for digital connectivity (including digital economy, e-commerce, etc.)?

Q28

In which sectors could digital connectivity best support the transition to sustainable development in your country?(You may tick more than 1 box).

Agriculture,

Fisheries,

Forestry,

Industry,

Services,

Additional information on the sector(s) in which digital connectivity can best support a transition to sustainable trade and the circular economy. (Please include weblinks of the source used).:

Please refer to the following links: -

https://ogcio.gov.vu/index.php/en/policylegislation/policies

-

https://enhancedif.org/system/tdf/uploads/tpfuvanuatu.pdf ?file=1&type=node&id=5919

Q29

Please identify which issues where digital connectivity would offer most promise in the move to sustainable development in your country?(You may tick more than one box).

Digital contents,

E-civil service,

E-commerce,

E-government,

E-healthcare,

E-learning,

E-logistics,

Home energy management systems,

Smart energy grids,

Smart work,

Transport information systems,

Additional information on the issues where digital connectivity that would offer most promise in the move to sustainable development.:

The National ICT policy is currently being developed to be launched this year. Apart from that follow this link for other related policies:

https://ogcio.gov.vu/index.php/en/policylegislation/policies

Q30 Yes

Is there an existing Aid-for-Trade project for digital connectivity towards sustainable development and/or environmentally sustainable growth (or circular economy) that you want to showcase as an example of best practice?

Q31 Yes

Do you agree that the COVID-19 pandemic has acted as an accelerator for the move to digital economy in your country?

Q32

In which areas has the COVID-19 pandemic exposed shortcomings in national digital connectivity? (You may tick more than one box).

Digital gender divide,

Digital payments issues,

Inadequate network infrastructure including broadband capacity

Insufficient or uneven internet coverage,

Lack of access to trade finance,

National digital connectivity strategy needs to be developed/updated

National e-commerce development strategy needs to be developed/updated

Poor access to internet services,

Poor digital skills and IT literacy,

Rules relating to e-commerce need updating,

Slow, expensive or unreliable internet services,

Trade facilitation and logistics issues

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Q33 Agriculture,

Looking ahead, in which sectors do you think future Aidfor-Trade support to your country should focus so as to support sustainable development objectives? (You may tick more than 1 box).

Fisheries,

Forestry,

Industry,

Services

Looking ahead, in which categories of Aid for Trade do you think support should be focused so as to advance the environmental dimension of sustainable development? (You may tick more than 1 box).

Trade policy and administrative management,

Trade facilitation,

Regional trade agreements (RTAs),

(b) Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, ecommerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development)

Transport and storage infrastructure,

Communications infrastructure,

Energy supply and generation infrastructure,

Business and other services,

Banking and financial services,

Building productive capacity,

Agriculture,

Forestry,

Fishing,

Industry,

Travel and tourism,

(e) Trade related adjustment (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit from liberalized trade)

,

(f) Other trade related needs

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Which donor(s) are the most important for Aid-for-Trade financing for the environmental dimension of sustainable development in your country? (You may tick more than 1 box).

Australia,

European Union,

Japan,

Korea,

New Zealand,

Asian Development Bank (AsDB),

Climate Investment Funds (CIF),

Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF),

Food and Agricultural Organization of the UN (FAO),

Global Environment Facility (GEF),

International Labour Office (ILO),

International Monetary Fund (IMF),

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),

UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO),

World Bank,

World Trade Organization (WTO),

Other (please specify),

Additional information on the donor(s) that are the most importance source of Aid-for-Trade financing for sustainable trade or development in your country.:

China - a major source for AfT for Vanuatu India - an emerging source for AfT as well.

Q36

Which South-South partner(s) are the most important source of Aid-for-Trade financing for the environmental dimension of sustainable development? (You may tick more than 1 box).

China,

South Korea*,

India

Q37

Have you received Aid-for-Trade financing as part of triangular co-operation projects?

Yes,

Additional information on the Aid-for-Trade financing that you have received as part of triangular co-operation projects.:

World Bank - Others such as Australia, NZ and China/USA

Q38

Is there an Aid-for-Trade project or programme for sustainable trade or development, green growth or circular economy that you want to showcase as an example of best practice? Respondent skipped this question

Do you implement policies that address the environmental dimension of sustainable development while also supporting progress on gender equality and/or women's economic empowerment?

Yes,

Additional information on whether you implement policies that address the environmental dimension of sustainable development while also supporting progress on gender equality /women empowerment. You may also provide information on your intention to draft such policies in the future. (Please include weblinks as applicable).:

Please refer to the recommendations of the Trade Policy

Please refer to the recommendations of the Trade Policy Framework Update (TPFU) 2019-2025. Follow this link to access the document:

https://enhancedif.org/system/tdf/uploads/tpfuvanuatu.pdf ?file=1&type=node&id=5919

Q40

Do you implement Aid-for-Trade projects that combine the objectives of women's economic empowerment and environmentally sustainable development?

Yes,

Additional information on the Aid-for-Trade projects which combine the twin objectives of women's economic empowerment and environmental environmentally sustainable development. Please indicate the number of projects, the sector concerned (agriculture, fisheries, sustainable tourism, circular economy, etc.). (Please include weblinks as applicable).:

It is a requirement for ALL donor funded project to fulfill these objectives.

Q41

Any other information you wish to share? (e.g., where support for sustainable trade or development is needed).

Respondent skipped this question

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Is women's economic empowerment included as an objective in any of your national strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s)?

Yes,

Additional information on how women's economic empowerment is included as an objective in your national policy documents.:

It is included in the following policies: 1. National Sustainable Development Plan (NSDP) 2016-2030 under the Society Pillar (link:

https://www.gov.vu/index.php/resources/vanuatu-2030) 2. Trade Policy Framework Update (TPFU) 2019-2025 under chapter 9: Trade and Sustainable Development section 9.5 Women's Economic Empowerment (link:

https://enhancedif.org/system/tdf/uploads/tpfuvanuatu.pdf ?file=1&type=node&id=5919) 3. National Gender Equality Policy 2015-2019 (link:

https://www.nab.vu/document/national-gender-equalitypolicy-

20152019#:~:text=The%20Vanuatu%20Government%20re cognises%20that,the%20National%20Constitution%20of %20Vanuatu.&text=Gender%20equality%20and%20wome n's%20empowerment,%2C%20Healthy%20and%20Wealth y%20Vanuatu%E2%80%9D).

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Q43

If yes, please indicate the strategy, policy, or plan in which women's economic empowerment is included: (You may tick more than one box).

National development strategy, policy or plan, National gender equality strategy, policy or plan,

National trade development strategy, policy or plan,

Women's economic empowerment's strategy, policy or plan

Aid-for-Trade strategy, policy or plan,

Additional information on the strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s) that include women's economic empowerment. (Please include weblinks as applicable).:

National Gender Equality Policy (Link: https://dwa.gov.vu/index.php/economicempowerment/economic-government-policy)

Q44

Do the strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s) that you have identified seek to ensure non-discrimination with respect to conditions of employment or occupation (including through the provision of flexible work arrangements)?

Yes,

Additional information on how the strategy(ies), policy(ies) or plan(s) that you have identify seek to ensure non-discrimination with respect to conditions of employment or occupation. (Please include weblinks as applicable).: Please refer to the National Gender Equality Policy for additional info

(Link:https://dwa.gov.vu/index.php/economicempowermen t/economic-government-policy)

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Q45

Does your government collect data on women's economic empowerment in relation to trade and development?

Yes.

Additional information on the data on women's economic empowerment that your government collects. (Please include weblinks as applicable).:

Data collection is still an issue in Vanuatu due to capacity constraints and funding issues. However, the department of statistics is trying to improve this the Eleventh European Development Funding (11th EDF).

Q46

In your view, what trade and development constraints do women face in your country? (You may tick more than one box).

Difficulties accessing financial services,

Difficult working conditions,

Discriminatory practices,

Exclusion from male-dominated distribution networks

,

Harassment, security and safety issues,

Informal employment,

Poor access to information,

Unpaid care and domestic work,

Unpaid employment

Q47 Yes

Can Aid for Trade play a role in addressing these constraints?

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Q48 Yes

Have you requested Aid for Trade to finance projects for women's economic empowerment in your country during the period 2015-2020?

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If yes, please provide further information on the donors, South-South or triangular cooperation partners that have supported your Aid-for-Trade programmes on women's economic empowerment.

Number of total projects implemented in the period 2015-2020

Duration in years (1, 2 or more than 3)

Percentage of projects that included women's economic empowerment as their sole/main objective (please include the % sign in your response)

Numerous

3

not sure

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Q50 Developing training programmes, Developing Access to trade related infrastructure, Please specify the areas that your Aid-for-Trade projects for women's economic empowerment sought to Increasing women's participation in services sectors, address:(You may tick more than one box). Facilitating access to trade finance, Supporting women's entrepreneurship, Supporting women-owned/led MSMEs to export, Supporting women's representation in trade policy and design of trade/Aid-for-Trade initiatives **Q51** Yes Have public-private partnerships been used to achieve your Aid-for-Trade objectives in relation to women's economic empowerment? **Q52** Yes Does Aid for Trade help to mobilize funds for women's economic empowerment? **Q53** Yes Are your Aid-for-Trade projects involving women's economic empowerment underpinned by a monitoring and evaluation/ results framework? **Q54** Yes Does the Aid-for-Trade support for women's economic empowerment that you receive align with your trade priorities and objectives?

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Q55 Unsure

Do women face particular difficulties in accessing digital technologies in your country?

Q56

Please identify the top 5 barriers that prevent women from accessing digital technology in your country:(You may tick a maximum of 5 boxes).

High cost of device (e.g., mobile phone),

High usage costs,

Lack of awareness of opportunities offered by digital technologies

Limited internet connectivity,

Poor IT literacy and/or skills

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Q57 Agriculture,

Looking ahead, in which trade sectors do you think future support for women's economic empowerment should be focussed?(You may tick more than 1 box).

Fisheries,

Forestry,

Industry,

Services,

Additional information on the sectors in which future support for women's economic empowerment should be focussed.:

Additional information on the sectors in which future support for women's economic empowerment should be focussed.: Vanuatu still needs more support for woman empowerment especially in the value chain sector.

Looking ahead, in which Aid-for-Trade categories do you think future support for women's economic empowerment should be focussed?(You may tick more than 1 box).

Trade facilitation,

Trade education/training,

(b) Trade development (Including investment promotion, analysis and institutional support for trade in services, business support services and institutions, public-private sector networking, ecommerce, trade finance, trade promotion, market analysis and development)

,

(c) Trade-related infrastructure (Including physical infrastructure)

,

Transport and storage infrastructure,

Communications infrastructure,

Energy supply and generation infrastructure,

Business and other services,

Banking and financial services,

Agriculture,

Forestry,

Fishing,

Industry,

Travel and tourism,

(e) Trade related adjustment (Including supporting developing countries to put in place accompanying measures that assist them to benefit from liberalized trade)

Q59

You may use the box below to elaborate on how you think that Aid for Trade can advance women's economic empowerment.

Respondent skipped this question

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Q60

CONSULTATION (Other ministries/agencies consulted in preparing this questionnaire reply):

self