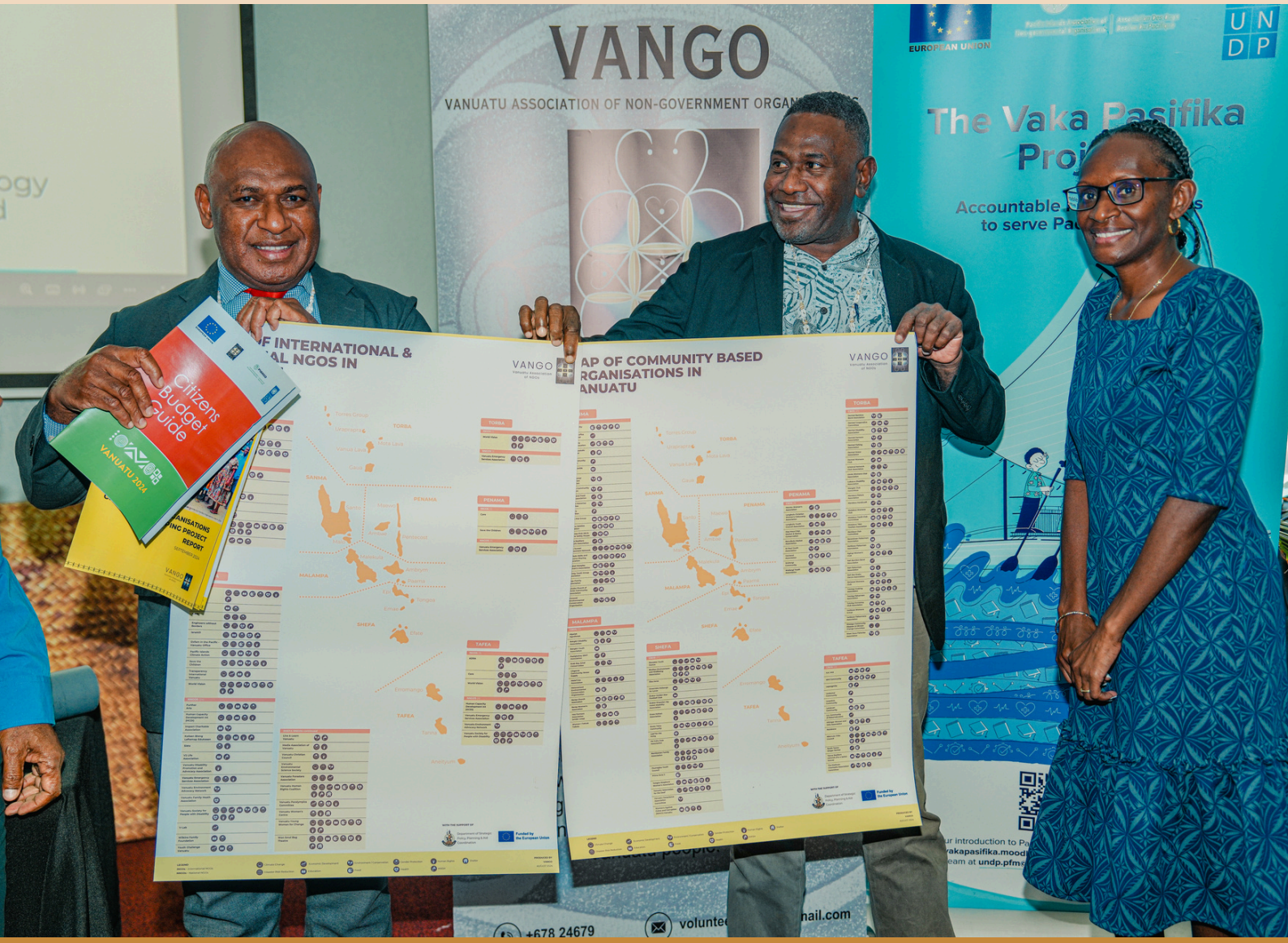
VANGO
VANUATU ASSOCIATION OF NGOs

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

Prepared for the AGM Meeting | **June 2025**



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MESSAGE
FROM THE VANGO CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARIAT

The year 2024 has been another successful and fruitful one for the Vanuatu Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (VANGO). Despite limited resources, the Secretariat has worked tirelessly to implement key activities that support VANGO's mission as the umbrella body for NGOs across Vanuatu.

A major focus for VANGO in 2024 was to **strengthen coordination between civil society organisations and the government** and build the capacity of the sector. As part of this effort, VANGO successfully developed and launched an updated CSO Map and ran broad ranging training and awareness building activities that engaged in excess of 100 organisations. These organisations are becoming a vital part of a broader movement of change-makers within Vanuatu.

VANGO's advocacy and influencing role has also increased throughout the year across a range of areas relating to Government accountability, child protection, human rights, education, and justice and non-discrimination for all—regardless of gender, age, location, social status, ethnicity, or disability.

SHIRLEY ABRAHAM | VANGO CEO

WILLIE TOKON | VANGO Chairperson

Towards the end of 2024, the island of Efate, including Port Vila, was struck by a powerful 7.3 magnitude earthquake. In response, VANGO and many of its members rapidly shifted from programming to emergency response. It was inspiring to witness the adaptability, and strength of the CSO community during this time of crisis.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our partners—FALE Pacific, PIANGO, Save the Children, Canadian Fund, and Oxfam—for their support and funding. We are also deeply thankful to the European Union, through the Department of Sector Strategy and Policy Aid Coordination, for funding the updated CSO Map and the soon to be launched CSO Directory. Without your support, these milestones would not have been possible. **Together, we continue to build a stronger civil society for Vanuatu.**

Tankyu tumas, thank you and Vinaka vakalevu

Willie Tokon
VANGO Chairperson

Shirley Abraham
VANGO Chief Executive Officer

ABOUT VANGO

VANGO
VANUATU ASSOCIATION OF NGOs

The Vanuatu Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (VANGO) is the national umbrella organisation for all non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) operating in Vanuatu. It was founded in 1991 and registered with the Vanuatu Financial Services Commission (VFSC) in 1995.

VISION

Our Vision is to be a vibrant and inclusive network of all CSOs in Vanuatu working collaboratively and proactively to contribute to the prosperity of all Vanuatu people.

MISSION

Our Mission is to serve as an umbrella organisation for all CSOs in Vanuatu, championing good governance, accountability, networking, capacity development, and partnerships for and between all stakeholders.

We represent over 200 organisations across the country. Over 80% of these are small, volunteer led, community-based organisations and associations that are working at grass roots level to address needs in their communities. The remaining approximately 20% are our National and International NGO's that are vital partners in working with Government and key stakeholders in delivering services and programs that contribute to the goals of Vanuatu's NSDP.

OUR BOARD & TEAM

BOARD

Dr Willie Tokon
Chair (from Oct) / Treasurer (Jan–Oct)
Organisation representation:
Transparency Vanuatu
Term: Re-elected August 2023

William Nasak
Chair (until July)
Organisation representation:
Island Rock
Term: Resigned July 2024

Narand Beerbul
Deputy Chair (from Oct) / Acting Chair (July–Oct)
Organisation representation:
Kolisen Blong Leftemap Edukesen
Term: Elected in August 2023

Noel Steven
Secretary
Organisation representation:
Youth Challenge Vanuatu
Term: Elected in August 2023

Leisong Kalsong
Treasurer
Organisation representation:
Wan Smolbag
Term: Elected in October 2024

Annie Benua
Member
Organisation representation:
Save the Children Vanuatu
Term: Elected in August 2023

Leniker Thomas
Member
Organisation representation:
Deaf Association, CBO
Term: Resigned in August 2024

Yasmine Bjornum
Member
Organisation representation:
Sista
Term: Elected Oct 2024

TEAM

Shirley Abraham
Chief Executive Officer

Selicia Ronolea
FALE National Coordinator
(until January 2025)

Ayla Nganga
Project Support and Communications Officer
(commenced May 2024)

Elines Mansen
Finance Coordinator
(commenced October 2024)

Natalie Venables
Volunteer Advisor
(commenced June 2024)

ACHIEVEMENTS
AGAINST VANGO'S STRATEGIC PLAN

VANGO has had a successful and busy 2024. Below is a selection of some of our key highlights against each of the four overarching goals as contained in our Strategic Plan.

Strategic Goal: **Institutional Strengthening of VANGO**

Board strengthened through training and AGM elections, with 2 new members joining in October.

Team strengthened with 3 new positions added:
- **Finance Coordinator**
- **Project Officer**
- **Volunteer Advisor**

Team capacity developed through training:
- **MEAL**
- **Safeguarding**
- **PSEAH**

New funding sources identified and secured including Canadian Fund project.

Institutional framework developed through: Board Handbook, Revised Membership Form & Updated Constitution.

Financial processes strengthened with Xero software and ongoing support from external accounting firm.

VANGO AGM 2023

Strategic Goal: **Promoting Good Governance, Building Capacity, and Strengthening Communications with Members**

Visibility and awareness of CSOs was improved through development of an updated map of 128 organisations.

Capacity of 5 CSO's was enhanced through the provision of small grants for cyclone recovery projects.

Members knowledge of VANGOs activities was developed through monthly newsletters and online information sharing.

Knowledge and skills of 20 CSOs was improved through training on: Good governance, first aid, grant writing, resource mobilization, NGO Act for Vanuatu.

CSO contributions were shared, acknowledged and celebrated through an NGO Exhibition Day that attracted over 200 visitors.

Good governance for CSOs was promoted through implementation and broader sharing of a Code of Conduct.

Grant writing training for CSO's in Port Vila

Strategic Goal: **Strengthening CSO Voice and Advocacy**

Civil Society views were represented in a variety of consultation settings, both in Vanuatu and abroad.

CSO voice on topics including Human rights, presidential pardons, loss of learning, MP allowances were shared with regular press releases.

Advocacy campaigns relating to child protection and public finance management were progressed to influence Government and the broader public.

Civic education about Government budget decision making and processes was achieved with the development of a Citizens Budget Guide

Attitudes to gender based violence, disabilities and corruption were influnced through 5 workplace awareness sessions as part of 16 days of activism.

Community awareness of the Hapi Pikinini Gudfala Fiuja Campaign in Ambrym

Strategic Goal: **Strengthen Partnership Cooperation**

Closer partnerships with current and potential donors were fostered through an inaugural round table discussion.

Collaboration with CSOs were progressed particularly for the 16 Days of Activism, NGO exhibition day and Child Protection advocacy.

New and continued funding was secured through partnerships with PIANGO, SCA, Oxfam, and Canada Fund.

Relationships strengthened with Vanuatu Government – including provincial governments, DSSPAC and MIA.

Successfully engaged businesses through delivery of a sponsorship campaign for funding for NGO Day.

Continued to engage with potential and existing members and other stakeholders through regular courtesy meetings.

'FALE meeting with PIANGO CEO, Emeline Siale Ilolahia

PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

1 Civil Society Mapping

The CSO Mapping Project represented a major achievement for VANGO, increasing the visibility of organisations across the country.

6 provinces were visited
The islands of: Vanua Lava, Santo, Ambae, Malekula, Efate & Tanna.

11 Area Administrators were partnered with
to assist identify and engage with organisations.

128 organisations were mapped
as a sample of the many more across the country

40 copies of the maps were distributed
to Government and Civil Society stakeholders

CSO Mapping exercise, Santo, February

Key Insight

CSO's across the country, from the small volunteer led community-based organisations and associations through to our national and international NGO's, **are making significant contributions to Vanuatu's development**. The need for greater visibility of their efforts was highlighted as well as the importance of **strengthening capacity, collaboration and coordination**.

Supported by Department of Strategic Policy, Planning & Aid Coordination

2 Hapi Pikinini, Gudfala Fiuja

This Child led advocacy project focusses on advocating for the passing of a Child Protection Bill for Vanuatu whilst also working to increase community understanding of the importance of preventing violence against women and children.

Awareness raising activities
were convened in all provinces

3,000 people directly engaged in activities
from all segments of the community

Cross collaboration
VANGO collaborated with local CSOs, Ministry of Justice, police, Island Court representatives, Chiefs, provincial administrators and Churches

17,000 individuals were reached
through the online campaign delivered in collaboration with Living in Vanuatu.
2 articles also were published in the Daily Post

600 pamphlets were distributed
both in Bislama and Englsih

Key Insight

Violence against Children in Vanuatu is a major issue, with recent Government statistics indicating that **87% of children age 1-14 years regularly experience violent discipline1**.

The provincial visits and associated activities highlighted broad support for VANGO and its partners activities in this area whilst also recognising the time and effort needed to bring about sustainable and impactful change.

Supported by Save the Children

3 FALE Vanuatu

The Facility Aiding Locally Led Engagement (FALE) Vanuatu initiative increased its profile and activities during 2024, building on the early success from when it commenced in 2023.

FALE-VANUATU

A humanitarian initiative aiming to build community resilience through facilitating locally led responses to socio-economic and environmental challenges.

18 CSOs increased their capacity
through participating in workshops on first aid, resource mobilization and other topics

5 cyclone recovery projects
successfully funded through FALE and delivered by CBO's

15 CSO's consulted
to identify strengths, weaknesses and future directions for FALE

8 organisations were partnered with
for the distribution of earthquake response supplies to their members. This was commenced within 72 hours of the earthquake.

Cyclone recovery grant - Silae Vanua Market Vendors Association

Earthquake Recovery, Efate, December

First Aid Training, Port Vila, November

Key Insight

Strategies to empower communities to help them respond to their own needs following crises is a growing area of focus for VANGO and more broadly in the Pacific.

VANGO has focussed on building the capacity of CBO's whilst also pursuing efforts to provide additional small grants and supporting them to identify other resource mobilization opportunities both within and external to their own communities.

Supported by Vitol Foundation PIANGO

4 Public Finance Management

The Public Finance Management Project, including the Citizens Budget Guide, aims to engage and empower residents in understanding and advocating for Government budget processes and decisions.

Key stakeholders including the Ministry of Finance and Economic Management, Vanuatu National Auditor Office, Office of the Parliament, KOBLE & Transparency International Vanuatu were consulted.

60 stakeholders received a copy of the Guide
following its launch in October

3 week campaign run in November
to say 'NO' to the proposed government bill of November 2024 on the increase of Members of Parliament allowance.

10 Social media posters were developed
highlighting key messages, posted in the lead up to the January 2025 Snap election.

Over 3,000 signatures were collected
for the campaign petition

MP allowance Campaign CSO Meeting, Korman Stadium, November

Key Insight

Civic education and engagement in Government processes and decision making is crucial for a robust democracy.

VANGO is focussing on identifying and strengthening opportunities for CSO's to engage further in policy dialogue and advocacy in a range of settings.

Supported by UNDP European Union PIANGO Pacific Islands Association of Non-governmental Organisations | Association Des Ongs Desiles Du Pacifique

OTHER 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

VANGO Board Training, February

NGO Exhibition Day, October

16 Days of Activism, Workplace Awareness Session, VIT Campus, November

CSO Good Governance and Institutional Strengthening training, Port Vila, November

ASBAE Board Meeting, November

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

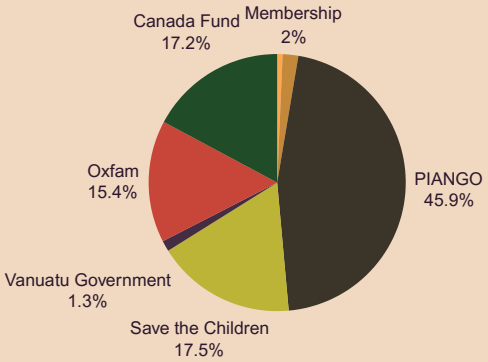
22,033,944 VUV
Total Receipts

22,915,252 VUV
Total Payments

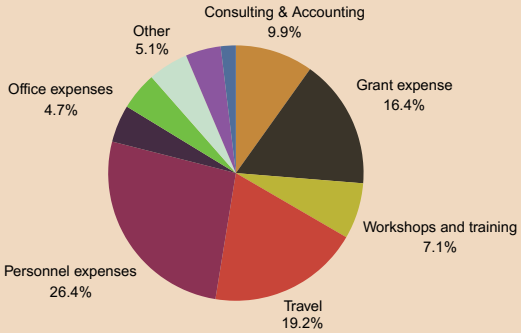
10,289,701 VUV
Opening Cash Balance

9,408,393 VUV
Closing Cash Balance

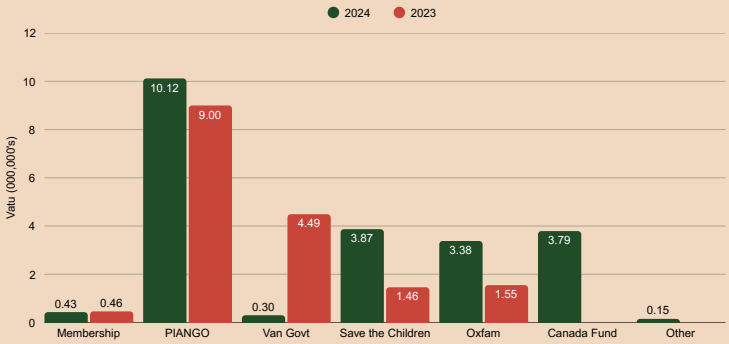
2024 Cash Receipts



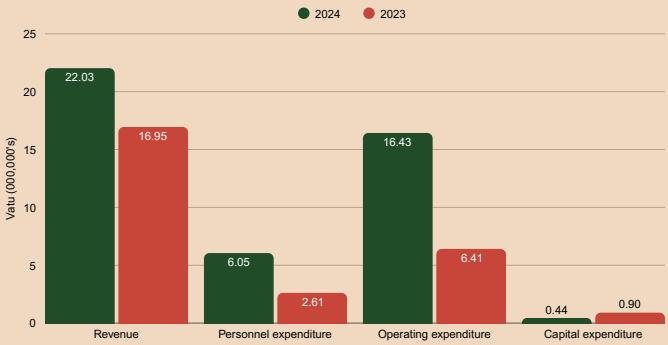
2024 Cash Payments



23/24 Revenue Sources Comparison



23/24 Total Revenue & Expenditure Comparison



VANGO MEMBERS

The below include our Financial Members for 2024. Affiliate members, without voting rights have not been included. A total of 58 CSOs renewing their membership in 2025 to attend the AGM.

INGOs

- Engineers without Borders
- Friends In Action International
- Isra Aid Vanuatu
- Transparency International Vanuatu
- Care International
- Save the Children Vanuatu
- World Vision Action Aid
- Adventist Disaster Relief Agency
- Field Ready
- Oxfam in Vanuatu
- Impact Charitable Association

NNGOs

- Vanuatu Innovation & Digital Economy Association
- Youth Challenge Vanuatu
- Kolisen Blong Leftemap Edukesen
- V-Lab Association
- VPride
- Vanuatu Disability Promotional Advocacy
- Vanuatu Society for People with Disability
- God will Provide
- Further Arts
- V2 Life
- Vanuatu Family Health
- Wilkins Family Foundation
- Vanuatu Emergency Services Association
- Human Capacity Development International
- Wan Smol Bag
- Vanuatu Indigenous Land Defence Desk

CBOs

- Nasituan Christian Services
- Vanwods
- Jerol Mobile Medical Services
- Scouts et Guides de la Paroisse
- Torres Area Council Community based Development & Environment Network
- Sanma Resilience Network
- Needles Across Vanuatu
- Big Bay Hapuara
- Motari Tangbulbulu
- Silae Vanua Market Vendors
- Kokoreko CDCCC Manples
- Maro Landscaping & Botanical Garden Association
- 3 N Support Services
- Teouma Zone 1 Women's Association
- Our World Philanthropy
- Pakiare Brothers Enterprise
- Tongoa Shepherds Women's Association
- Aore Women Farmers Association
- Metevomoni Environmental Conservation Organisation
- Tamana Kindergarten
- Lovutaibu Environmental Conservation Organisation
- Mitingar Women and Girls Association
- Vanuatu Geoscience Association
- Nambawan Family
- Foundation 1 Committee
- Media Association
- Na Vuhu Sule Association
- Vanuatu Deaf Association
- Ekoftau Environment & Wellbeing Association
- Tanna Resilience Women's Network
- Vanuatu Independent Pikinini School

PARTNERS & SPONSORS

VANGO would like to extend our sincere thankyou to our sponsors and partners:

Department of Strategic Policy, Planning & Aid Coordination

European Union

Vitol Foundation

PIANGO
Pacific Islands Association of Non-governmental Organisations | Association Des Ongs Desiles Du Pacifique

OXFAM

Save the Children

CFLI/FCIL
Canada Fund for Local Initiatives
Fonds canadien d'initiatives locales

Australian Aid

Vila Distribution

vodafone

ELECTROCOOL SERVICES

HCDI
Human Capacity Development Int.

Vanuatu Beverage Ltd
Manufacturer of Quality Soft Drinks

National Bank
Vanuatu's Own Bank

VANGO

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