



VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

GOVERNMENT OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
TO THE UN LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2020

*Accelerated action and transformative pathway: realizing the decade of
action and delivery for sustainable development*



JULY 2020

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About this Report

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is one of 193 Member States of the United Nations which adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. The SDGs are 17 goals underpinned by 169 targets and are part of what is known as the 2030 Agenda, which recognizes "that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development." In adopting the 2030 agenda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines like all the other countries resolved to take "bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path where no one will be left behind." The goals and targets are universal, meaning they apply to all countries around the world, not just poor countries. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines realizes that achieving the goals requires action by all stakeholders – governments, businesses, civil society, youth – essentially people everywhere all have a role to play.

The Voluntary National Review (VNR) of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has been prepared for presentation at the UN High Level Political Forum in July 2020 and is designed to demonstrate that we are progressing towards realizing the SDGs. The report has been prepared consistent with the theme of this year's forum which is ***"Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development"***. The VNR for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is structured to allow the country to share its experiences, including successes, challenges, gaps in implementation and lessons learned with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This could not be achieved without the inputs of stakeholders. It is important to note that the report itself was prepared during a very uncertain time when we are all being affected by the global pandemic COVID-19 and in which Saint Vincent like many other countries took steps to reduce the spread and flatten the curve by enforcing restrictions on movements and providing guidelines for working from home. Thus, to ensure that the country's VNR was developed within the stated timelines and in an inclusive and participatory manner, the decision was taken to engage in the process of distributing questionnaires to stakeholders to ensure that their inputs were reflected in the VNR. Many of these stakeholders were engaged prior in SDG related sensitization sessions as well as other sectoral policy and planning discussions that are normal for the country in the preparation of national and strategic documents to advance the country's development agenda. This worked relatively well. The Government also engaged stakeholders in online q review of the first draft of the VNR.

The VNR therefore illustrates how national processes are shaping the advancement of the SDGs in the country as well as the challenges being faced – including financing gaps – in implementing these goals, how these challenges are being addressed, and how progress is being tracked towards achievement of the SDG targets. The preparation of the report, at the time of a global pandemic

emphasizes how not only current known vulnerabilities but also how new and emerging global issues can suddenly impact the development trajectory of countries, and further highlights the challenges and opportunities that must be considered for the achievement of Agenda 2030.

As a country with a strong ethos on inclusiveness, the VNR preparation required innovative solutions to facilitate stakeholder participation and engagement– as the country battles issues related to social distancing – heightening the role of technology in accomplishing these goals.

The concept of “leaving no one behind” fully resonates with the country’s development pathway as it targets issues related to reducing inequalities, eliminating all forms of poverty and empowering women and youth. While notable strides have been made, it is also recognized that there is much to be accomplished. Agenda 2030 provides a clear guide to enabling the advancement of development around the five principles of the Agenda (5Ps) – people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. Prior to the adoption of Agenda 2030, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had already begun a cohesive process of implementing measures to build a sustainable society through environmental, economic and social improvements underpinned by good governance and, despite challenges, the country remains fully committed to the task of advancing Agenda 2030 for the benefit of current and future generations.

Minister’s Statement

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines joined the rest of the world in 2015 in committing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – and the sustainable development goals. We agree that these goals, the SDGs, are a “call to action” for us to work together toward peace and prosperity for people and the planet.



This is Saint Vincent and the Grenadines’ first Voluntary National Review (VNR) and it asserts our commitment to advance the global agenda. The VNR allows us to take stock of the journey we have travelled, where the country is now, what we have learned along the way and how we plan to map the way forward. I am pleased that we now have the opportunity to share our successes, our experiences and lessons learned with the rest of the world at the 2020 session of the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development that is being convened under the theme “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”. In undertaking the VNR, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ensured that stakeholders were engaged to provide input and feedback and renewed commitments for cooperation towards the achievement of the goals.

The SDGs are certainly aligned with our own long-term goals as embodied in the National Social and Economic Development Plan 2013-2025, which focuses on economic growth, good governance, human and social development, resilient infrastructure, and celebrating our heritage and culture. Indeed, the preparation of this VNR has enabled us to assess our progress a little over half-way through implementing the national plan and to determine where we are in achieving the national vision of “improving the quality of life for all Vincentians”.

The results are encouraging. We are able to provide almost all our citizens with quality health care and access to education at all levels – through what we called an “education revolution” and a “wellness revolution” – and also basic services such as water, sanitation, electricity and housing, all within a stable government system that recognizes the rights of all Vincentians.

We are proud of what we have achieved but recognize that there is much to be done to get us where we want to be. Importantly, this process of examining our actions and plans has illuminated what we need to do better and we are already establishing new policies, programmes and

innovative initiatives that will move us along the path of sustainable development. Further we are doing this at a time when, like all countries, we are facing the extraordinary challenge posed by the current COVID-19 pandemic. It is during such times that we recognize the importance of ensuring the resilience of our people, communities, businesses and institutions to exogenous shocks such as pandemics, natural hazards, climate change and financial crises.

We recognize that all citizens in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have an important role to play in achieving the SDGs, including civil society, the private sector, academia, government, communities and individuals across the country. We particularly encourage the youth to become actively engaged and will continue to support programmes aimed at young persons. They are our future leaders and already have much to contribute to national development. We are determined to be a pioneer and role model for the implementation of SDGs in an effort to foster a more just, prosperous and peaceful world. We will aggressively pursue our efforts to reduce inequalities, eliminate all forms of poverty, empower women and youth and consider the wellbeing of the most vulnerable in our society first as we advance our development priorities. In other words, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is committed to “leaving no one behind” as we move forward together.

Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves
Prime Minister

Highlights of the VNR – Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

The process of preparing the VNR for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines allowed for both reflection and introspection on the localisation of the SDGs and how they are being implemented. As a country we are pleased that prior to the adoption of the global agenda we had the foresight to recognize the importance of promulgating a national development plan that included a long-term horizon for implementation. Our desire for development that is underpinned by high levels of economic growth, recognition that people must be at the centre of development and protection of the natural environment has augured well for us as a country. Having a national development plan that shows some level of alignment with the SDGs has become the first step for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in localizing the SDGs, taking us beyond the starting line. Agenda 2030 has also highlighted important gaps that we must fill if we want to achieve the levels of equality, sustained growth and advance the blue and green economies and move away from the red economy which is underpinned by inefficiency.



The VNR has allowed us to showcase our country’s development within the context of our own National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025 (hereinafter referred to as the country’s national development plan), and it has also allowed us to assess and identify areas and initiatives that we require much needed support if we are to truly localize the global agenda and by 2030 achieve development that is truly sustainable. The VNR will be an important tool for our development partners as it would quickly allow them to identify areas that as a country, we need support in as well as align these areas with their own development strategies and agenda.

In preparing the report, we reflected on a few areas that are worth sharing – good practices that as a country we are already engaging in; lessons learned and the challenges we face with achieving the goals as set out in Agenda 2030. These are presented in the table below:

Table 1 SDG Highlights for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

SDG Good Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Localisation of Agenda 2030 is critical to advancing the global agenda and having a long-term national development plan in place is key to the implementation of the SDGs locally. • It is important that there are high levels of stakeholder engagement to engender national ownership of initiatives. • Development of a monitoring and evaluation framework will allow for effective tracking, planning, implementation of programmes and the SDGs within the context of the national development framework.
SDG Lessons Learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistical capacity and strong data systems are required for undertaking robust analyses. • There is need for a coordination body underpinned by multi-stakeholder groups that would allow for higher levels of stakeholder participation in the implementation of the agenda. • Collaboration among stakeholders is critical to ensuring sustainability.
SDG Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for additional financing to accelerate the achievement of the goals and support for accessing some of the new and innovative financing mechanisms that are available. • Need to strengthen the countries statistical capacity to better monitor and evaluate progress on advancing the SDGs. • Climate change and other natural disasters as well as other exogenous shocks such as COVID-19 present unique challenges and have the potential to stall our progress. • Need to address socio-economic inequalities including those that are gender-based.

As a country, achieving the global goals is a priority for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. We pursue development that is sustainable and underscored by ‘leaving no one behind,’ thereby ensuring that the most vulnerable are considered in the development pathway first. In the immediate future we know that we must improve the governance framework for monitoring and evaluating implementation of the SDGs while ensuring that there is national buy-in and participation in the process by establishing mechanisms to facilitate stakeholder participation.

Background and Introduction – Setting the Social, Environment and Economic Context

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) is an archipelago in the Lesser Antilles and is located in the Eastern Caribbean. It is a member of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). The country has an area of 389 km², making it one of the smallest countries in the world. Its population is approximately 110,608 making it one of the least populous countries in the world with 284.3 people per km². The country has a territorial sea of 12 nautical miles and an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and continental shelf of 200 nautical miles. The marine space is over 70 times the land area. The terrain of the main island and several of the Grenadines is mountainous. Forests cover between 25 percent and 30 percent of the country.

The Human Development Report (HDR) 2018, launched in 2019, ranked Saint Vincent and the Grenadines at 94 out of 189 countries and territories with an HDI value of 0.728 – which places the country in the high human development category. Between 2000 and 2018, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' HDI value increased from 0.674 to 0.728, an increase of 8.0 percent. This increase is supported by the fact that between 1990 and 2018, the country's life expectancy at birth increased by 1.8 years, mean years of schooling increased by 1.1 years and expected years of schooling increased by 1.6 years, and its Gross National Income (GNI) per capita increased by about 120.8 percent.

The country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate in 2018 was 2.2 compared to 1.0 in the previous year 2017. The increase in economic growth over the period has been largely driven by increased tourist arrivals, and a surge in regional demand for manufactured building materials in the aftermath of the devastating 2017 Atlantic hurricane season. The fishing sector also contributed to growth, registering an increase in fish landings. Over the same period, inflation has been steady.

While the country has always been dependent on tourism, remittances and agriculture, making it vulnerable to external shocks, the promulgation and implementation of the country's national development plan has accelerated economic transformation. Significant investments continue to be made in ICT, tourism, infrastructure, renewable energy and entrepreneurship to further this objective. With respect to agriculture, diversification is evident and ongoing, with the sector relying less on banana exports, while increasing investments and production around root crops, fruit and vegetables, livestock, poultry, cocoa and coffee making these sub-industries major employers and economic contributors. Notably, the medicinal cannabis industry was legally established in 2019, adding another layer to the diversification of the agricultural sector. Agriculture continues to be one of the largest employers and direct contributors to GDP, with

farming and fishing being deeply engrained in the Vincentian identity, culture and ethos. Public-private partnerships are also a key component of the agriculture sector with the promulgation of policies to better engage the private sector to expand fisheries production to allow the country to benefit for the increased demand for fish and fish products regionally and globally, moving away from more subsistence type fishing activities to export-led growth.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is working towards making significantly improving the ease of doing business for local and foreign investors. The 2019, World Bank Ease of Doing Business Report, ranked Saint Vincent and the Grenadines at 130 among 190 economies. The rank of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines remained unchanged for the 2018/ 2019 period. While the country has done relatively well in areas such as the time taken to deal with construction permits and enforcing contracts, there is need for reforms related to starting a business, registering property and access to credit, among others.

Efforts continue to be made by the government to reduce the high level of unemployment by increasing activities across a range of economic industries and ensuring that decent work is placed on the agenda in new and emerging activities. According to the labour force survey of 2017, the number of active employees rose by 2.4 percent between 2012 and 2017, to 41,790. This reflects an increase of 969 active employees since the year 2012. The 2.4 percent increase in employees between 2012 and 2017 was driven mainly by growth in the construction and public administration sectors, and a rise in manufacturing jobs. The country also suffers from underemployment and like many other Caribbean countries, a large informal economy.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' development pathway as articulated in its national development plan places significant emphasis on the development of its people and is contextualized within the broader context of a rights-based approach to development and citizen security. This is evidenced by the Government's focus on education and its special emphasis on the reconstruction of educational institutions and the provision of improved opportunities for persons to access technical and vocational training. The country also is witnessing an increase in the number of students accessing tertiary education and internships through state supported loans, scholarships and stipends. There also is a strong focus on ensuring that the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are healthy and there is access to high quality and affordable primary, secondary and tertiary health care.

Over the years the country has seen significant improvements in the standard of living and expansion of opportunities due in part to political and social stability and improved macroeconomic management.

As an island state, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is highly vulnerable to climate change and natural hazards – particularly hurricanes, storms, drought and excess rainfall. The country is a member of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) within the UN Framework Convention on

Climate Change (UNFCCC). Accordingly, the Government has been investing heavily in resilience, disaster preparedness and activities that would reduce the vulnerability of the population. The country is taking deliberate action to reduce the budget volatility from natural disasters and is putting in place disaster risk financing strategies and ex-ante disaster risk financing instruments. These include the purchase of catastrophic hurricanes, excess rainfall and earthquake parametric insurance policies from CCRIF SPC (formerly the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility) as well as the setting up of a Contingency Fund and in collaboration with the World Bank the establishment of a Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (Cat DDO). Essentially, the government has recognized the importance of resilience building as a key developmental priority and part of a multi-faceted approach that includes both climate adaptation and economic diversification that takes into account the critical importance of the green and blue economies.

The Government recognizes the importance of the natural environment to advancing its growth and sustainability prospects. For example, many projects and programmes are implemented to support the sustainable management and use of natural resources and ecosystems. These include the ban on single use plastics, Styrofoam and beach sand mining, along with prohibiting the catch of parrot fish, sea turtles and dolphins. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' progress to advance environmental sustainability and the holistic efforts and investments made have resulted in the country ranking 36 out of 180 countries on the 2018 Environmental Performance Index (EPI), and 2nd in the Caribbean with a score of 66.48. This is a significant achievement for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The EPI also shows that the country ranked 26 for ecosystem vitality, 7 for fisheries and number 1 for forestry. Some other areas that will require work and focus include water and sanitation in which the country ranked 97 and biodiversity and habitats with a rank of 60.

With respect to governance issues – an important pillar often not included in the sustainable development equation – Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is one of the countries with the lowest corruption perception in Latin America and the Caribbean, with an index score on the global Corruption Perception Index (CPI) of 59 points in 2019 (ranked 39th out of 198 countries), a one point increase from the previous year. This is not dissimilar to the country's scores on the World Bank's Government Governance indicators (data available up to 2014). In 2019, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines became the smallest country ever to be elected to a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), allowing the country to play a pivotal role in shaping international law and upholding its tenets at the council.

In late 2019, the International Monetary Fund predicted that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will see a GDP growth rate of about 2.3 percent in 2020. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) broadly concurred with the IMF's projection for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' 2020 progress, suggesting 2.4 percent growth. These projections are expected to change given the new realities being posed by the global pandemic COVID-19,

including the closure of key areas of activities in the country such as tourism and the overall global demand for goods and services. Essentially, this VNR cannot be written without placing it in the context of the COVID-19 and the impacts now and in the future that the country will face. Careful analysis and assessment of how these impacts would affect the country's development prospects and consequently the advancement of the SDGs must be part of the analysis contained in this report.

Table 2: A Data Snapshot of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Indicator	Data (Reference period)
Nominal GDP (EC million)	2,190.5 (2018 preliminary)
Nominal GNI (EC million)	2,168.4 (2018 preliminary)
Real GDP growth rate (%)	2.2 (2018 preliminary)
GNI Per Capita (EC\$)	19620 (2018)
GNI Per Capita (US\$)	7266.7 (2018)
Inflation rate (%)	2.3 (2018)
Total Merchandise exports (EC million)	117.9 (2018)
Merchandise imports (EC million)	954.8 (2018)
Current account of BOP (% of GNI)	12 (2018)
Exchange rate (EC/US\$)	2.7
National Unemployment Rate (%)	25.8 (2017 Labour Force Survey)
Human Development Index	0.728 (2018)
Ease of Doing Business Index	130 (2018)
Environmental Performance Index	36 (2018)
Corruption Perception Index	59 (2019)
Overall level of Statistical Capacity	56.67 (2018)
Life Expectancy at Birth (in completed years)	73 (2017)
Male	71 (2017)
Female	75 (2017)
Peri-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	24.9 (2016)
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	11.0 (2017 Vital Statistics)
Child Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	15.6 (2017 Vital Statistics)
Still Births (count)	23 (2016 Vital Statistics)
Total Fertility Rate	1.9 (2017 Vital Statistics)
Registered Nurses per 1,000 population	4.5 (2016)
Immunization Coverage in infants less than 1 year (2016)	
DPT (%)	100 (2016)
OPV (%)	100 (2016)
BCG (%)	100 (2016)
MMR 1 (%)	100 (2016)
MMR 2 (%)	99 (2016)
Births Attended by Skilled Personnel (%)	98.6 (2016)

Source: 2020 Statistical Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' Approach to Localizing the SDGs

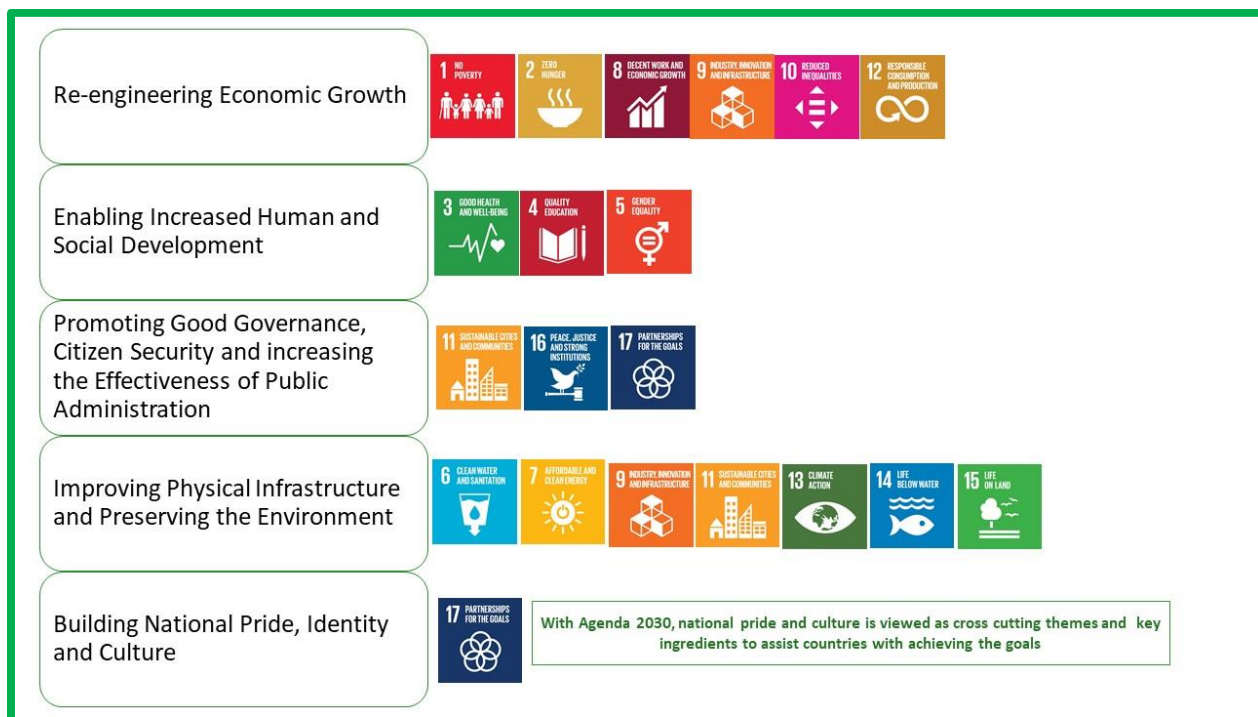
Implementation of the SDGs in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will be undertaken through the country's national long-term development plan "National Economic and Social Development Plan," which covers the period 2013 – 2025. Accordingly, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' commitment to advancing Agenda 2030 is operationalized through this plan which aligns the country's development objectives with each of the SDG goals and targets. This represents a tremendous opportunity for the country and is a critical step to localizing the SDGs.

The SDGs also will play a key role in defining the country's development agenda beyond 2025 and up to 2030, when it is expected that the country will promulgate a new development plan. Consequently, a new development plan after 2025 will enable the country to adopt lessons learnt from the implementation of the SDG process as well as provide strategic direction for the global agenda beyond 2030. The national development plan is a strategic road map which outlines the country's long-term strategies for national development and is underpinned by a national vision for "improving the quality of life for all Vincentians." The key tenet underpinning the goal of "leaving no one behind" is closely aligned with the country's national development plan and overall development agenda. Like Agenda 2030, the country's national development plan focuses on the integration of economic, social and environmental issues, underpinned by good governance to advance the country's efforts in its path to sustainable development. The national development plan is supported by five overarching national goals that are designed to ensure that the country achieves its vision and *"remains a safe, secure place to visit, live, work, and raise children."*

The Plan includes goals and strategies to guide the country's future development and these goals which are aligned to Agenda 2030, place emphasis on improving the quality of life of all Vincentians. Peace, equity, a cohesive society, good governance, tolerance and respect are all major prerequisites for this type of integrated development being pursued which also requires the concerted efforts and commitment of not just Government but all stakeholders – private sector, civil society, academia, communities, development partners, and the general public to attain the high levels of success anticipated.

The graphic below shows how Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' five national goals, as contained in its national development plan, are aligned with the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. By focusing on the achievement of these goals, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will be playing a key role in localizing the SDGs and advancing the 2030 agenda, ensuring that 'no one is left behind' in the pursuit of its development prospects.

Figure 1: SVG National Goals Alignment to the SDGs



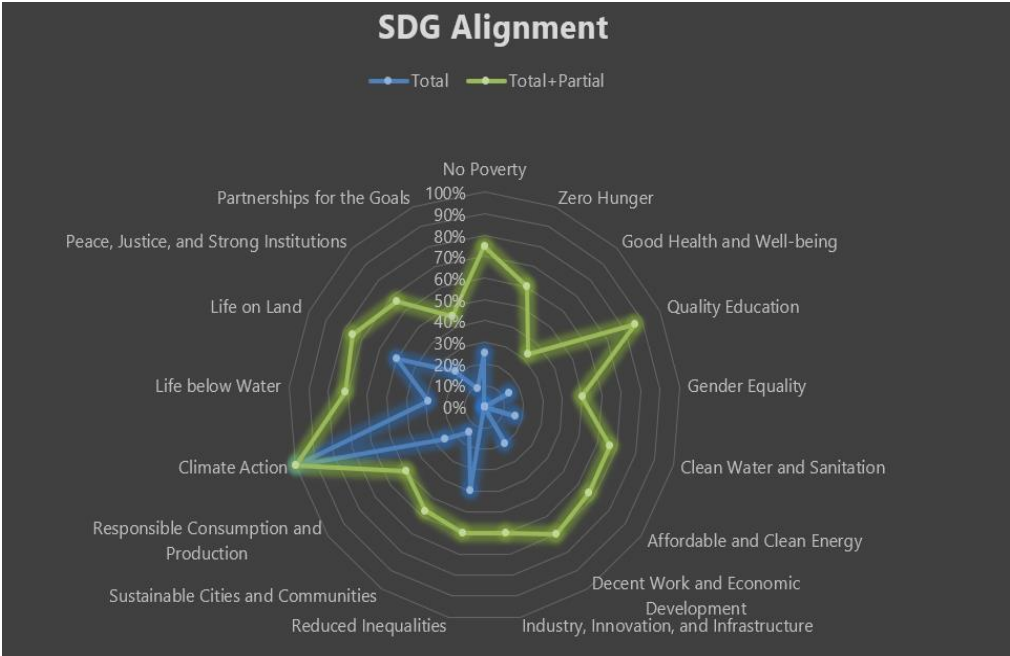
The country therefore views Agenda 2030 as a key plank to advancing the strategic direction of the country. The country is pleased that through the development and implementation of its national development plan – which started in 2013 – two years before Agenda 2030 – it was able on one hand to effectively contribute to the development of Agenda 2030 and was able to start localizing the SDGs from the onset. As the country advances to 2030, St. Vincent and the Grenadines will play its part to ensure that the country “*remains a safe, secure place to visit, live, work, and raise children,*”¹ which in turn will ensure that “*no one is left behind.*”

¹ Gonsalves, Camillo, “Transforming the economy, building resilience, creating jobs and developing sustainably”. Kingstown. 3 February, 2020. Budget Speech.

Assessing Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Readiness for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In 2019, the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines requested support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to assess its readiness to implement Agenda 2030. Consequently, UNDP applied the Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) tool to assist the country in understanding how Agenda 2030 was mainstreamed into national and local plans as a first step to ascertain the country’s readiness to implement and localize the SDGs. The RIA methodology allowed for reviews of the country’s national development plan as well as other national policies and relevant sector strategies and provided an indicative overview of the level of alignment between the plans/strategies and SDG targets. The RIA also provided guidance on the institutional framework for SDG implementation as well as stakeholder engagement.

Figure 2: SDG Alignment



Source: UNDP Rapid Integrated Assessment February 2020

The RIA of the country’s planning framework showed that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has a 62 percent alignment of all its planning/policy documents with the SDG goals and targets. In other words, there are 113 SDG targets considered as relevant for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. After aggregating all alignments from all documents included in the analysis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was found to be covering 62 percent of the SDG targets, with full or partial alignment. When only the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025 is considered, the total SDG coverage (full and partial alignment) is 48 percent. The analysis from the RIA provided further evidence of the strides the country has been making in the areas of climate action, environmental

management – both on land and below water, access to educational opportunities, increasing the use of renewables in the energy mix, poverty reduction and economic wellbeing. In the spirit of continuous improvement, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will continue to advance work in these areas ramp up efforts on the other SDGs to advance the country’s commitment to a sustainable future.

This SDG goal alignment with the indicators could be further broken as follows:

Table 3: SDG Goal alignment

SDG Goal	% Alignment
1 – No Poverty	75%
2 – Zero Hunger	60%
3 – Good Health and Well Being	33%
4 – Quality Education	86%
5 – Gender Equality	50%
6 – Clean Water and Sanitation	67%
7 – Clean and Affordable Energy	67%
8 – Decent Work and Economic Development	70%
9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	60%
10 – Reduce Inequalities	60%
11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities	57%
12 – Responsible Consumption and Production	57%
13 – Climate Action	100%
14 – Life Below Water	71%
15 – Life on Land	75%
16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	67%
17 – Partnership for the Goals	45%
Total	62%

Source: UNDP Rapid Integrated Assessment February, 2020

The Statistical Office (SO) of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines currently serves as the custodian of SDG Statistics. The SO plays a vital role in the coordination and generation of these statistics in accordance with the standards as defined in the documented metadata for the SDG indicators. Currently, the country’s SO is leading the process of creating mechanisms for data mining for the 113 SDG indicators deemed applicable so that the country’s monitoring and evaluation framework for SDG implementation. The SO, will work collaboratively with members of the National Statistical System (NSS) to do the following:

1. Complete an assessment of SDG data availability in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
2. Work with assigned focal points for specific SDG targets and indicators to produce the indicators.
3. Populate SDG indicator templates with data obtained from various sources.

The process has started and the SO is able to provide data for just over 50 percent of the indicators that are currently produced. In the short term, the SO intends to set up an SDG portal on its website - stats.gov.vc - which will provide data specific to SDG indicators.

The country recognizes that its statistical capacity needs to be strengthened. One of the challenges here is the need to build the technical capacity of the Statistical Office to be better able to collect, analyze, and disseminate high-quality data around development parameters. In 2018, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ranked 107 out of 143 countries on the World Bank Overall Level of Statistical Capacity with a score of 56.76, reflecting the need for improvements in this area through technical cooperation and other related support. The Action Plan for SDGs implementation will be guided by plans that are developed every three years to facilitate the implementation of the national development plan. This analysis illustrates a significant level of readiness by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to advance the implementation of the global agenda.

Agenda 2030, and the experiences and lessons learned from other countries in the localisation and implementation of the Agenda present an exciting opportunity for the country to further advance its commitment to a sustainable future and close the gaps in alignment.

Risks and Challenges to Achieving the SDGs in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Identifying risks and emerging issues, and adapting to them, is a critical part of achieving the 2030 Agenda. Equally important is identifying lessons learnt over the course of implementation, engaging in continuous improvement as a means of building on development gains and where necessary, taking corrective actions based on effective monitoring, reporting and evaluation. Risk analysis at the national level will be critical to identifying potential uncertainties that can impact negatively on performance and consequently, achievements. The following are some risks that impeded the timely achievement of the SDG targets in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:

- Insufficient financing and delays in development aid flows as well as recognising the importance of attracting investment that considers issues such as gender equality and linkages to the domestic economy, along with the relevance of international investment agreements to the Caribbean e.g. ensuring both men and women have access to opportunities in growth industries.
- Slow pace of implementation of reforms, programmes and projects.

- The impacts caused by COVID-19 both at the local level and in the global economy, which at the time of writing are not fully known but it is clear that growth targets would be negatively impacted.
- Exogenous shocks such as those associated with the impact of natural hazards and climate change.
- Socio-economic impact of brain drain.
- Insufficient ownership of the national development plan and unclear partnerships for advancements.
- Need to more clearly define the institutional framework for guiding the overall process of advancing Agenda 2030.
- Weaknesses in national statistical capacity, particularly as it relates to the country's ability to collect, analyze, and disseminate high-quality data about its population and economy among others, essential for all stages of evidence-based decision-making.

Methodology and Process for the Preparation of the VNR

The VNR for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is structured to allow the country to share its experiences, including successes, challenges, gaps in implementation and lessons learnt with a view to accelerating the implementation of 2030 Agenda. This could not be achieved without the inputs of stakeholders. It is important to note that the report itself was prepared during a very uncertain time when we are all being affected by the global pandemic COVID-19.

Thus, to ensure that the country's VNR was developed within the stated timelines and in an inclusive and participatory manner, the decision was taken to engage in the process surveying stakeholders to ensure that their inputs were reflected in the VNR. Many of these stakeholders were engaged prior in SDG related sensitization sessions as well as other sectoral policy and planning discussions that are normal for the country in the preparation of national and strategic documents to advance the country's development agenda. Stakeholders also included persons who were members of the various technical working groups that were key to the development of the country's national development plan. These groups comprised individuals from the public and private sectors as well as civil society organizations.

The preparation of the VNR also drew on the work done by the UN-Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) under the Development Account Project which involves in-depth and comprehensive reviews of the national statistical system (legal, institutional and organizational environment) as well as an assessment of the human and technical capacity of the country to implement the SDG global indicator framework. This work was underpinned by a range of stakeholder engagements, consultations and dialogues with the public and private sectors and civil society organizations to enhance the understanding of the developmental needs and challenges to sustainable development in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as well as to raise awareness of the SDGs and the collaborative effort required for their successful implementation.

The distribution of the questionnaires to stakeholders and organizations were aligned to the 5Ps of the SDGs and the 17 goals that fall under them. The table below shows the list of entities that were engaged through the stakeholder engagement process.

Table 4 Stakeholder Engagement

5Ps	SDG Goals to be Addressed	Key Entities or Stakeholders Engaged in the SDG/VNR Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People • Peace 	1 – No Poverty 2 – No Hunger 3 – Good Health and Wellbeing 4 – Quality Education 5 – Gender Equality 16 – Peace Justice and Strong Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour • Fisheries Department • Ministry of Education, National Reconciliation, Ecclesiastical Affairs and Information • Ministry of Health, Wellness and Environment • Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth • Ministry of National Security, Air and Sea Port Development • Office of the Prime Minister • Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture • Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Community College • Troumaca Temperance Society • Spring Village Parenting Activist • Rose Hall Cultural Development Organization • Statistical Office
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosperity • Partnership 	7 – Sustainable and Clean Energy 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure 10 – Reduced Inequalities 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities 17 – Partnerships for the Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour • Department of Labour • Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology • Ministry of Housing, Informal Settlements, Land Surveys and Physical Planning • Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Commerce • Ministry of Legal Affairs • Ministry of Transport and Works, Urban Development and Local Government • Ministry of Tourism, Sports and Culture • Invest SVG • National Centre for Technology Innovation • Central Water and Sewerage Authority • Public Service Union • National Workers Movement • Central Kingstown Development Organization • Statistical Office
Planet	13 – Climate Action 14 – Life below Water 15 – Life on Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, Rural Transformation, Industry and Labour • Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning, Sustainable Development and Information Technology • Ministry of Health, Wellness and Environment • Fisheries Department • Forestry Department • SVG Conservation Fund • Volunteer In Action • Statistical Office

Stakeholders and organizations were asked to respond to 5 questions as listed below - and to share information on the SDGs that they are contributing to and to articulate the activities being undertaken from 2015 to present – listing the main achievements, challenges, lessons learned, and other areas or activities that will be undertaken in the future or those that should be undertaken to ensure that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines moves closer to achieving the SDG being reported on. Organizations were allowed to report on more than 1 goal if applicable given the integrated nature of the goals. Organizations also were asked to share relevant reports, brochures, pictures and other technical or communications-related documents on their programmes.

SDG Goal # reporting on:

SDG Goal Name:

1. What programme(s) or initiatives have you undertaken (2015 to present) to advance progress towards achieving this goal? Also, describe the objectives, main activities and indicate who are the intended beneficiaries.
2. What has been the major achievement(s) under the programme(s) or initiatives referenced in Q1? Please describe the main outputs of the programme and how persons have benefitted and who were the beneficiaries.
3. Please indicate and describe any challenge(s) in the delivery of the programme(s) referenced in Q1? This can also include challenges related to pace of implementation, capacity in terms of staffing and resources etc.
B) Please list any lesson(s) learnt from the delivery of the programme(s)? These could be related to planning, stakeholder engagement, implementation, monitoring, etc.
4. Please advise whether actions needed to achieve the goal by 2030 have been identified and costed.
5. For the challenges identified, please indicate the programme/ initiatives /solutions proposed thus far to advance progress towards achieving this goal.

The overall process worked relatively well with both stakeholders and organisations providing responses on the implementation of various SDGs. The Government also engaged stakeholders in online focus groups for the presentation and review of the first draft of the VNR.

Synopsis of the Policy and Enabling Environment for the Advancement of the SDGs

The Government recognizes that an institutional mechanism is necessary to facilitate the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs. Currently, government ministries and agencies are responsible for the alignment of all policies and key programmes with the Agenda 2030 framework. This policy facilitates integrated assessment of the pace of progress in realizing the SDGs alongside local development objectives. The institutional mechanism that will be rolled out will be closely aligned with what now exists for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the country's national development plan, where the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning coordinates the monitoring of the plan's progress by reviewing annual reports from ministries, departments and agencies. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning will assess performance based on the indicators through annual reporting and 3-yearly reporting frameworks.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the 17 SDGs require the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development at the local level. Localization of the SDGs to be achieved through the implementation of the country's long-term development plan is a key step in the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environment. In the implementation of programmes and projects the intent is to ensure that there is a full assessment of each programme or project before implementation on the potential social, economic and/or environmental impacts to be able to achieve the level of integrated development that is required to advance the global agenda.

The government fully understands that it is impossible to achieve the SDGs by working in silos. Therefore, an improved institutional framework for the SDGs is being implemented to bring clarity to the delegation of authority and responsibilities across government departments. The framework is expected to foster the integration of ideas and sharing of data and statistics. A strong framework enhances good governance in planning, designing, and supporting national development and plays a critical role in advancing a country's development priorities. For instance, countries that have successfully integrated the 2030 Agenda in their national development plan are foremost in the implementation of the SDGs towards their country's well-being.

Leaving No-One Behind – SVG’s Call to Action



“Leave no one behind” is a core principle of the 2030 Agenda. By endorsing the declaration, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines like all other countries pledged that “no one will be left behind,” either as participants in the development process or beneficiaries of development and those furthest behind will be served first. In implementing the SDGs, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is taking strategic and deliberate steps and actions to ensure that all segments of its population including women, children and youth and those furthest behind or who currently have the least opportunities are considered first and prioritized.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines’ vision for sustainable development is built on the principle of putting people at the centre of its development and is fully aligned with the principle of “leaving no one behind.” This vision is further elaborated through five integrated development objectives that places emphasis on ensuring a better quality of for all through human capital development, protection of the natural environment and advancing environmental sustainability, and pursuing the path to a prosperous economy that is sustainable, low-carbon, resilient, and providing equality of opportunity to all. Peace, equity, a cohesive society, good governance, tolerance and respect are all major prerequisites for this type of integrated development being pursued which also requires the concerted efforts and commitment of not just Government but all stakeholders – private sector, civil society, academia, communities.

Some of the groups in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines that could be categorized as in danger of being left behind based on the UN definition of the concept are:

- Women and children living in poverty,
- Unemployed and unattached youth,
- Persons with disabilities,
- Fishers, farmers, seasonal workers such as tourism workers and day labourers,
- The elderly.

The 'Leave no one behind' Index 2019, which reviews the readiness of 159 countries to 'leave no one behind', assessing and monitoring the extent to which government systems are set up and ready to meet their leave no one behind commitment enshrined in the 2030 Agenda states that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is partially ready to implement the leaving no one behind agenda based on data and expenditure on key sectors such as health, social protection and education. In operationalizing the notion of leaving no one behind and ensuring that the country stands ready, key areas of emphasis will include, among others:

- Integration of the principle of "leaving no one behind" into sectoral policies as well as strategic and operational plans of government entities.
- Ensuring that government sectoral policies factor in the principle of leaving no one behind and that there is policy coherence and that no established policy knowingly or unknowingly undermines efforts to achieve 'leaving no one behind'.
- Financing the SDGs which also would involve adequately financing the country's development plan the conduit through which the SDGs will be achieved in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Ensuring that official development assistance and support from development partners and their country programmes take into account the most vulnerable in society and country programmes prioritize those currently furthest behind in development.
- Improving monitoring and evaluation (M & E) frameworks, so that there is more focused analysis of development results and vulnerable groups.
- Establishing transparent inclusive, timely and participatory monitoring and accountability processes to assess progress.
- Strengthening the country's national statistics system and increasing the disaggregation of development data to be better able to identify the groups that are being left behind and those that may be at increasing risk of falling behind in the development space.
- Developing and implementing new initiatives to promote social protection and inclusive development as a means of ending extreme poverty, reducing inequalities, and addressing discriminatory behaviours.
- Development of programmes specifically targeting women, children and youth.

Progress on SDGs – Goals and Targets



The assessment of the 17 SDGs for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is based on development results covering the period 2015–2019 on a host of social, economic, and environmental issues. It is also based on the consultative review undertaken by the Government that focused on determining progress based on programmes, policies and initiatives being implemented, issues and challenges faced across all sectors and within the context of the 2030 targets. The areas highlighted in the analysis are written to demonstrate the integrated nature and indivisibility of the goals. Essentially the report on each goal provides a snapshot of the policies, programmes and projects being implemented within the context of the country’s development plan as well as any issues in implementation or challenges being experienced. The assessment of the country’s performance under each goal allowed us to prepare a dashboard of SDG targets and progress for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The matrix presented at the end of the assessment of the goals presents a rough measurement or mapping of the country’s progress across all goals based on the SDG targets.

SDG 1: SVG's Progress

End poverty in all its forms everywhere



The long-term development plan for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has been designed to promote inclusive and sustainable development underpinned by a vision of re-engineered economic growth to improve the quality of life for all Vincentians and has a thrust towards reducing and eliminating poverty. Over the years, the country has seen significant improvements in the standard of living and expansion of opportunities due in part to political and social stability and improved macroeconomic management.

The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines recognizes that ending poverty is critical and accords high priority to poverty reduction and advances a comprehensive range of programmes to improve the plight of poor and vulnerable groups. Poverty is a multi-dimensional, complex phenomenon that countries must address for the attainment of social and economic development. The last poverty assessment produced by the country was in 2007/08 which means that targeted poverty reduction and social protection strategies are not sufficiently informed by up to date data. The country is ranked 106 out of 191 countries with a GDP (PPP) per capita of US\$12,983 (2020 estimate) according to the World Economic Report. Contributing to the country's poverty levels are relatively high levels of unemployment (25.8% in 2017), income inequality and technological gaps as measured by standard indicators such as internet access, number of scientists and funds spent on research and development. The country's poor are characterized by large families and predominantly single women-headed households. Rural communities and banana farmers have been identified as being at high risk and needing support through poverty reduction strategies that specifically target them. The Government also is placing emphasis on revitalising the agricultural sector, through the creation of linkages with tourism and other sectors which will have implications for eliminating poverty.

Key Achievements

Over the years, the country has achieved measurable and significant reductions in indigence and poverty. Thousands of Vincentians continue to experience tangible quality-of-life improvements based on a growing economy, increasing job opportunities, targeted interventions, and a strengthened social safety net.

In 2003, the Government, in collaboration with civil society developed an interim Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) and has been implementing programmes aimed at poverty reduction and has pursued pro-poor policies. Through several line ministries, an array of social assistance programmes is being implemented to reduce poverty and address vulnerability in the population. These include the Basic Needs Trust Fund, a Social Welfare Programme, the National Insurance Services Non-contributory programme and a cash transfer programme, among others.

As a result of these and other initiatives there has been a reduction in abject poverty and improvements in living conditions. According to the Country Poverty Assessment 2007/08 Report, the Poverty Headcount Index stood at 30.2 percent, down from 37.5 percent in 1996, while the Gini coefficient fell from 0.56 in 1996 to 0.41 in 2008, suggesting an improvement in income equality. The indigence level fell from 25.7 percent in 1996 to 2.9 percent in 2008.

Approximately 95.0 percent of the population has access to basic services such as electricity, potable water and adequate shelter.

Also, the Government has placed focus on economic diversification and creating the enabling environment to expand industries such as tourism which has created additional jobs. Increased tourism has resulted in a rise in construction activities, and that has also created the need for additional labour. In terms of education, the Government has focused over the last decade on providing good quality and compulsory education to the secondary level and improving literacy rates and access to higher education for both boys and girls.

Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress

Table 5: Goal 1 Indicators and Progress

SDG Target	SVG Progress
By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.	
By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions.	
Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all.	
By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services.	
By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.	

■ Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress

■ Fair progress but acceleration is needed

■ Limited or no progress

■ Moving away from the target/deterioration

■ No trend data available

■ Insufficient data/not applicable

Strategies and Actions Needed to Achieve Goal 1

It is important that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines completes the enhanced Country Poverty Assessment (eCPA) in a timely manner as this assessment will be critical to enable the country to promulgate strategies for poverty reduction that are targeted and meet the needs of the country. The assessment began in 2018 with a proposed completion date in 2020 which may be impacted by COVID-19. While a Poverty Assessment is undertaken every 10 years, this one will be more in-depth and comprehensive and will determine the characteristics, extent, geographical concentration, severity and causes of poverty in the country. The assessment when completed will help with the development of specific strategies which will better serve the poor. The eCPA includes a Survey of Living Conditions and Household Budgets, to assess the extent of poverty, spending patterns, and will be used to measure inflation; a Participatory Poverty Assessment which focuses on assessing the well-being and coping strategies of the poor; an Institutional Analysis to assess the effectiveness of the social development programmes; and a Macro-Socio Economic Analysis, to assess the global social and economic environment, to determine its impact on the incidence of poverty.

The country also will need to focus on the preparation of a Social Protection Policy and Strategy which will be informed by the poverty assessment and which will allow for more targeted and strategic reach to the poor and vulnerable.

Other strategies that will need to be resourced include: fostering greater collaboration among public policy makers, civil society, private sector and academics to develop appropriate solutions to effectively address poverty; creating the enabling environment to increase employment opportunities and entrepreneurship; strengthen social protection networks; and enhance rural development creating vibrant and economically viable rural communities.

SDG 2: SVG's Progress

End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Today, agriculture remains a primary pillar of the economy, playing an important role in generating income, foreign exchange earnings and employment, especially in rural communities where primary agriculture remains the dominant economic activity. The importance of agriculture is reflected in its approximately 6.1 percent average contribution to GDP and approximately 15.0 percent of the employed labour force. Small-scale primary agriculture on farms between 0.2 to 2.0 hectares predominates as the main form of economic activity in the sector. Agriculture is heavily export driven, with a mix of several commodities produced for the regional and international markets. Important among these commodities are banana and root and tuber crops which dominate domestic, regional and extra-regional market activity. Small ruminants and fisheries also make important contributions.

The agriculture sector has, however, declined in overall contribution to the economy due to the loss of preferential trading arrangements for bananas, currency devaluation of currency in the main export markets such as Trinidad and Tobago (market for 60% of exports), high labour cost and unavailability of labour for agriculture, entry of exotic diseases and pests and a series of damaging weather events over the last fifteen or so years which affected output. Other challenges have emerged as tourism, tourism related services, and construction become increasingly important contributors to the national economy. The diversification of the economy has resulted, for example, in a decrease in available land for agriculture. The decline in the primary productive sector and the growth of the service industries has had a significant impact on food security in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and is evidenced by a decline in the production and consumption of locally produced foods, the increase in the food import bill, increase in the number of restaurants and fast food outlets, resulting in the proliferation of poor food consumption practices and the corresponding increase in a range of non-communicable diseases among the population.

To address the challenges, agriculture (including fisheries) has emerged as a strategic priority of the Government as it is recognized that the sector has a strong role to play in advancing the sustainability agenda especially as it relates to food and nutrition security, livelihoods, environmental protection and rural economic and social development- including health. As such, annual budgetary allocations to the agricultural sector as a percentage of the national budget has been an average of about 4 percent.

In the context of COVID-19, the Government is formulating a COVID-19 Food Security and Impact Mitigation Plan to bolster internal food supply systems, should food import availability become compromised.

Key Achievements

In 2013, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was given special global recognition as being one of an elite group of 18 countries to have met two internationally recognized targets in the fight against hunger. The targets included the Millennium Development Goal (MDG), number one of halving the proportion of hungry people between 1990 – 1992 and 2010 – 2012; and the more stringent World Food Summit (WFS) goal set in 1996, of reducing by half the absolute number of undernourished people between 1990 – 1992 and 2010 – 2012.

In 2014, the Government completed the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan which is consistent with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM's) regional food security plan for 2011-2025. This Policy provides a framework for the planning, implementation and monitoring of a comprehensive set of policies and programmes aimed at improving the food and nutrition situation of the entire population of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The policy is supported by a Zero Hunger Action Plan prepared over the period 2013-2015. The Zero Hunger Action Plan aims to engender the required initial buy-in and multi-sectoral support that would be required for the attainment of the Policy Goals and Actions articulated in the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan. Consequently, the Government approved the Zero Hunger Trust Fund Act, which authorized the establishment of a Zero Hunger Trust Fund Board. The Board is currently overseeing the implementation of targeted programmes and actions, including the mobilisation of required resources.

According to FAO data, the percentage of the population considered to be undernourished has continued to decline, decreasing from 9.1 percent in 2004-2006 to 5.7 percent in 2016-2018². However, there are increasing concerns about the link between nutrition and the various lifestyle diseases or non-communicable diseases.

At the same time, the Government is revitalising the agriculture and fisheries sector to maximize its economic growth potential, contribute to food and nutrition security and promote the sustainable use of land, forestry and marine resources. This support also is expected to improve the competitiveness of the sector and advance inclusive development and poverty reduction. In addition to the National Economic and Social Development Plan, other plans and programmes provide guidance for the agriculture sector, including: the National Agriculture and Fisheries Sector Development Plan (2017-2025); Strategic Plan for Agricultural Development 2012-2018 (draft); Strategic Plan for Rural Development; and Livestock Sector Investment Programme.

Food imports account 68 percent of total consumption (2015). While imports of fruits, ground provisions and vegetables have been increasing (at the same time as exports of other crops have also increased), the country is more self-sufficient in terms of animal-based products: it is self-sufficient in table eggs and there is a significant level of self-sufficiency in pork and small ruminants. The Ministry of Agriculture continues to provide support to livestock farmers by making

² <https://www.wfp.org/publications/2019-state-food-security-and-nutrition-world-sofi-safeguarding-against-economic>

available, animals of superior genetic stock through various programmes as follows: sale of animals, stud service, sire revolving programme and artificial insemination. Free health care services and technical advice are also provided to farmers on an ongoing basis. The Rabacca Livestock Improvement Centre serves as a model farm that is used for training of students and farmers.

Both technical and financial support are being provided to the agriculture sector to facilitate the development and diversification of the agricultural sector for example, by establishing a modern seed field that would help to stabilize the supply of quality seeds and seedlings to farmers, capacity building of farmers to overcome cultivation difficulties encountered during the rainy season and within the context of a changing climate.

Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress

Table 6: Goal 2 Indicator and Progress

SDG Target	SVG Progress
By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.	
By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.	
By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers.	
By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.	
By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels.	

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- Limited or no progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- No trend data available
- Insufficient data/not applicable

Strategies and Actions Needed to Achieve Goal 2

To be able to accelerate the transformation of the agriculture sector, enhance measures for food security, create employment and reduce the incidence of non-communicable diseases due to poor food choices, the country will need to increase investments as well as technical capacity in the sector. Some of the programmes and activities that will require technical and financial support and cooperation to accelerate results to achieve goal 2 include:

- Creating an enabling environment to support investments in the agriculture sector as well as public-private partnerships that would lead to increased research and development towards increasing outputs and enhancing productivity
- Focusing on establishing integrated agricultural and public health innovations to address the high burden of non-communicable diseases, including improving access to healthier diets
- Deepening linkages between agriculture and other sectors, particularly tourism, manufacturing and the environment
- Review of potential for aquaculture to increase fisheries production and contributions of fish and healthy diets to nutrition security.
- Implementing strategies to facilitate resilient building of the agriculture sector as among other areas, would contribute to improvements in food and nutrition security which continue to be affected by the prevalence of natural hazards, particularly hydrometeorological hazards
- Introduce technology and innovations for engaging youth in agriculture to reduce youth unemployment but also for ensuring the sustainability of the sector
- Building the technical, financial and managerial capacity of private sector producer organisations to facilitate the growth and development of small agro-enterprises that are involved in both primary agricultural commodities and production of value-added products.
- The development and full roll-out of the National Agricultural Marketing Information System to better link food value chain players and other stakeholders to improve market transparency and competitiveness of the agricultural sector.
- The establishment of a coordination mechanism to address agricultural health and food safety systems at the national and regional levels, and for the development of technical capacities within this area.
- Undertaking long range planning exercises to ensure that the sector can withstand crises such as those posed by the global pandemic COVID-19 and that internal food supply systems can be always in a state of readiness to supply food and nutrition to the population should food import availability become compromised.
- Establish mechanisms through strong public policy to stimulate investments and create formal linkages between and among agriculture, tourism and other service industries

SDG 3: SVG's Progress

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



The priorities for the health sector are defined in the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025 which states inter alia that access to good quality and affordable health care is fundamental and that through the implementation of the Plan, focus will be placed on improving the general health and well-being status of the population, and increasing life expectancy through the implementation of a wide range of programmes and the enhancement of existing programmes such as the “Wellness Revolution”.

Basic health indicators for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are generally positive with an average life expectancy at birth of 73 years (71 years for men and 75 years for women) and a fertility rate at a stable 2.1 children per woman, comparable to that of developed countries. Infant and maternal health, expansion in primary health care coverage has resulted in full immunisation coverage for the under-5 age group, 98.6 percent of births are attended by skilled personnel and there is a very low rate of maternal deaths (1.1 per 1,000).

Notwithstanding the above, some of the more pressing challenges facing the health sector in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are: fiscal constraints; changing family structures; an ageing population; an upsurge in chronic non-communicable diseases; relatively high levels of communicable diseases; and an increase in levels of substance abuse.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continues to record a rapid increase in lifestyle-related diseases over the past two decades. These, primarily chronic Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) are now the leading causes of mortality in both males and females. This is seen in a shift away from traditional diets made up primarily of locally produced whole root, tubers, and vegetables to more varied energy-dense diets based on more processed foods and beverages, which also has resulted in a steady rise in overweight persons in the population. The 2012/2013 National Health and Nutrition Survey indicated that fruits and vegetables were consumed an average of 3.3 days and 3.1 days respectively, per week.

Together with HIV/AIDS, NCDs are the main health threats to the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the main focus of the health sector. Although the social and economic impact has not been fully assessed, the financial burden alone is tremendous, with most human and technical resources being used in the treatment of these diseases.

These challenges are not confined to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines but represent a wider regional problem. As such, there is collaboration with countries of the OECS and wider CARICOM region in attempting to reverse these trends. Primarily, in the case of HIV/AIDS management, the region has been able to attract international assistance (financial, human and technical resources) from which Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has benefited. Apart from communicable diseases,

the re-emergence of some vector borne diseases such as Zika and Chikungunya, continue to be areas of concern.

Key Achievements

Free primary health care services are available to all Vincentians through thirty-nine (39) health centres in nine (9) health districts in the country. These services include emergency care, medical care, prenatal and postnatal care, midwifery and child health services including immunization, school health and family planning services, communicable and non-communicable diseases control. Mental health services are offered on a visiting basis at all health centres while oral health services are delivered at selected health centres throughout the state. The launch of the “Wellness Revolution” in 2008 as part of efforts to promote a holistic approach to health and well-being has heightened interest in this regard. Since then, improvements have been made to further emphasize the importance of healthy diet, exercise, sports and recreational activities in the promotion of healthier lifestyle choices.

Emphasis also is being placed on investments in health infrastructure throughout the country – including refurbishing existing facilities and constructing new and modern clinics. Recent achievements in this area include the opening of the Modern Medical Complex in Georgetown in 2018, state-of-the-art polyclinics in Buccament and Mesopotamia, and a Smart Hospital in Chateaubelair in 2019. The government continues to strengthen administrative capacity in the health sector, re-orient the primary health care system to create a more positive impact on the health status of the nation and expand secondary and tertiary health care services to include new treatment modalities.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has made huge strides in terms of disease reduction and improved sanitation. Over 93.0 percent of the population has access to clean water and this has significantly reduced the number of diseases spread by poor water sanitation. Overall, the country has a low disease spread and sets an excellent example for other developing nations for disease prevention and reduction. This also is true of COVID-19, in which the country has recorded 27 cases.

In 2019, the Government published its first-ever Charter of Patient Rights and Responsibilities. The Charter focuses on the right to health as a fundamental human right.

The performance on key health indicators is summarized in the table below.

Table 7: Health Indicators 2016

Health Indicators, 2016	
Indicators	Estimate
Life Expectancy at Birth (in completed years)	73
Male	71
Female	75
Peri-natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	24.9
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	16.6
Child Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	16.9
Still Births (count)	23
Total Fertility Rate	2.1
Registered Nurses per 1,000 population	4.5
Immunization Coverage in infants less than 1 year (%)	100
Births Attended by Skilled Personnel (%)	98.6

Source: Statistical Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Focus also continues to be placed on lifting the general health status of the population through the implementation of a wide range of programmes and the enhancement of existing programmes such as the “Wellness Revolution”. In 2017, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ratified the World Trade Organization’s Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, which will make it easier for the country to have a secure legal pathway to access affordable medicines.

The country continues to increase the human resource capacity of the health sector, employing additional doctors and nurses – for example a 71 percent increase in the number of doctors between 2018 and 2019 and a 29 percent increase in the number of nurses over the same period; and an increase of 123 percent in the purchase of medicines over 2018 – 2019 as a mechanism to ensure access to essential medicines.

Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress

Table 8: Goal 3 Indicator and Progress

SDG Target	SVG Progress
By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.	
By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.	

SDG Target	SVG Progress
By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.	
Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.	
By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.	
Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.	

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- No trend data available
- Limited or no progress
- Insufficient data/not applicable

Strategies and Actions Needed to Achieve Goal 3

While Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has a relatively good primary health care programme, there remains many pressing challenges and key to this is allocating scarce resources to support much needed activities under this goal. Some of these activities that have been prioritized in the National Development Plan and which are critical to achieving goal 3 are:

- Improving access to affordable primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare services.
- Prevention and control of non-communicable diseases which remain obstacles to good health.
- Communicable disease surveillance, prevention and mitigation.
- Human capital development and sustainable health care financing.
- Strengthening mental health services.
- Creating the supportive environment for an active, physically and mentally fit nation as well as the enabling environment to support access to healthy and nutritious diets as part of these lifestyle changes.

Making the required investments in health infrastructure will be important for advancing the various health outcomes and increasing life expectancy and also is critical for delivery of quality health services and care. Equally important is the need to develop health information systems to assist with tracking the performance of the sector on one hand but also to allow for making more informed and strategic decisions.

SDG 4: SVG's Progress

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines provides free public education to all its citizens, which is indicative of the importance placed on the sector's contribution to sustainable development and this commitment is underpinned by the policy statement "No Child Left Behind". This thrust also illustrates the country's policy to ensure that the education sector is both inclusive and fosters equity.

According to the Human Development Report 2018, the country's mean years of schooling increased from 7.5 years in 2000 to 8.6 years in 2018. The country's adult literacy rate is 95.73 percent. Since Saint Vincent and the Grenadines recognizes that its most valuable resource is its people, significant resources have been allocated for education and training. These consistently high budget allocations and expenditure in the sector has led to the achievement of universal access to primary and secondary education, a high percentage of trained teachers, a well-trained and educated workforce, near universal access to early childhood education and widespread access to post-secondary and tertiary education.

The country has made significant progress in education during the last two decades and has illustrated positive commitment to the implementation of regional and international strategies including the implementation of the goals and strategies of Education For All (EFA) coming out from the Dakar Framework for Action 2000. Within this context the thrust in the education sector has been on:

- Expanding and improving comprehensive early childhood care and education, especially for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged;
- Ensuring that all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances have access to and complete free and compulsory primary education that is of good quality;
- Ensuring that the learning needs of all young people and adults are met through equitable access to appropriate learning and life skills programmes such as technical and vocational programmes;
- Achieving improvements in levels of adult literacy especially for women, and equitable access to basic and continuing education for adults;
- Eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education and achieving gender equality in education with a focus on ensuring girls' full and equal access to and achievement in basic education of good quality; and
- Improving all aspects of the quality of education especially in literacy, numeracy and essential life skills.

Notwithstanding, there remain some challenges related to universal access to quality education that must be addressed. One such area is the fact that whilst education is free it is not compulsory, and though the Education Act 2006 mandates the parent of a child of compulsory school age to cause the child to regularly attend school some children don't, which in the past has resulted in them becoming prime targets for child labour.

Key Achievements

Increasing investments in government expenditure in the education sector has led to the expansion of early childhood instruction, hundreds of trained teachers, use of cutting-edge technology in the classroom, enhanced vocational and technical training, increase in the capacity and course offerings at the country's Community College, and increase in access to tertiary education regionally and overseas. There also has been investment in the building of new schools and the refurbishing of older ones, libraries and learning resource centres.

In terms of technology the government piloted the initiative "One Laptop per Child". It is felt that through the use of integrated technology in the classrooms, pupils will achieve a deeper appreciation of the concepts being taught. This initiative has been very useful especially during the school closures due to COVID-19 and has allowed for learning and teaching to ensure that there is no education gap as a result of the global pandemic.

Today, about 1 percent of Vincentians are pursuing tertiary education through State scholarships or other government assistance as a means of advancing the country's "education revolution" and achieving the country's goal of *"a highly educated, highly adaptable, well-trained, formally certified population, properly equipped to take advantage of the myriad opportunities in a rapidly-transforming economy – locally, regionally and globally."*

Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress

Table 9: Goal 4 Indicators and Progress

SDG Target	SVG Progress
By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	
By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.	
By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.	

SDG Target	SVG Progress
By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.	Yellow
By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.	Yellow
By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.	Green
Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.	Yellow

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- No trend data available
- Limited or no progress
- Insufficient data/not applicable

Strategies and Actions Needed to Achieve Goal 4

As the country makes progress in the area of quality education, the Government is cognizant of some challenges in the delivery of quality education and institutional capacity among others. One such area is the mismatch between the well trained and educated workforce and the needs of the labour market to advance growth and competitiveness. Coupled with this is the need to increase the number of persons certified in technical and vocational areas. The country also is focused on the need to address the low levels of attendance and achievement among certain vulnerable groups, particularly, males, children of single parents, children residing with guardians (often females) and rural students.

For quality education to be maintained consistent with the targets set out, investments will need to be made to develop and roll-out a standards-driven and outcomes-based education system that ensures the education and training is learner centered. There also will be a need to review and revise the curriculum, including widening it, in keeping with STEAM³ and STEM⁴ and ensure that all including those with special needs are able to access the system. To drive this would also require the development of a monitoring and evaluation framework for the sector as well as teacher training and professional development support underpinned by continuous improvement.

As part of the thrust to achieving SDG 4 the government will implement a range of strategies related to:

³ Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics
⁴ Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

- Ensuring that the curricula are specifically tailored to meet the needs of the society, particularly the labour market.
- Encouraging greater emphasis and participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
- Improving the learning achievements of students at all levels, especially in the core areas of English and Mathematics.
- Ensuring that the secondary school system better equips students exiting with the tools and abilities to access further education, training and/or decent work.

SDG 5: SVG's Progress

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



An analysis emerging out of the UN Rapid Integrated Assessment undertaken in 2020 revealed that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' national planning documents presents a mixed picture regarding gender. In the aggregate of all planning documents, SDG 5 is 50 percent aligned to the SDGs if partial alignments are considered. Whilst there is need for cross-cutting policy development to ensure the full alignment of targets, the progress made by this Small Island Developing State in this area is noteworthy.

The HDR indicated average life expectancy at birth of 75 years for females and 70.2 for males; 13.7 expected years of schooling for females and 13.4 for males. This shows that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has made progress towards achieving universal primary education, and has met the target of eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education. As in many other Caribbean countries, Vincentian women now regularly outnumber their male counterparts as graduates of tertiary educational institutions.

Notwithstanding these achievements for girls' education, there is need to increase the participation of girls in studying subjects in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (the "STEM" subjects). In view of this, the Government has increased its expenditure in the area of "STEM" subjects with specific emphasis on reaching girls and has recently invested in the expansion of a "STEM" summer programme that provides equal opportunity for children to pursue courses in science and technology.

The Government is cognizant of the economic vulnerability of women, particularly single mothers and women occupying low-paid jobs. Approximately, 30.6 percent of the unemployed are females. Even among the employed, women are more likely to experience poverty and inequality. Moreover, there is evidence that poverty may be exacerbated for elderly women. In view of these concerns, the government has increased the wages of low paid workers such as domestics and has instituted several pension programmes for the protection of the elderly, particularly women.

Violence against women remains a growing concern with 187 cases reported in 2018. Domestic violence, rape, and incest are the most common types of violence against girls and women.

The revised Domestic Violence Act #7 of 2015 provides a road map of response mechanisms for reports of domestic violence. It further provides avenues for action for victims, such as their rights to protection and support among others. However, based on a comprehensive review undertaken by the Gender Affairs Division (GAD) of the sexual offences provisions within the Criminal Code that discriminates against women, girls and vulnerable groups there are deficiencies in the Act and its enforcement – including lenient penalties, restrictive definitions and financial burdens placed on victims.

Key Achievements

In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines many women are in very prominent positions in the society. In fact, the country's current Governor General is female. Women also occupy prominent positions such as the Speaker of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) House of Assembly, Chief Magistrate, Director of Public Prosecutions, Chief Medical Officer and Cabinet Secretary. Many are Permanent Secretaries in government ministries as well as the ambassadors to the United States and Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations and Taiwan. Also, a Vincentian woman is the first Caribbean woman to be certified as a level 3 cricket coach by the England and Wales Cricket Board. Additionally, about 1.3 percent of seats in the country's national parliament are held by women.

As in many other Caribbean countries, Vincentian women now regularly outnumber their male counterparts as graduates of tertiary educational institutions. One factor that explains this phenomenon is that males leave the formal education system earlier to enter the labour force.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has signed and ratified all of the United Nations treaties and conventions on Human Rights and most importantly those for the protection and empowerment of women and girls. In 2016 for example, the country ratified the Montevideo Strategy for the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030. The aim of the Montevideo Strategy is to guide the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda and ensure that it serves as a roadmap for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional level, from the perspective of gender equality and women's autonomy and human rights.

In 2020, the Government has increased by 25 percent the wages for low-wage part-time workers at schools, hospitals and offices, which will benefit the women who dominate these job categories. The Government also is working to regularize teacher appointment and nurses' allowances. Also, given the disproportionate number of women who are supported by the social safety net – including single mothers and elderly women – recent efforts to supplement that support have measurable benefits. The recently-passed Occupational Safety and Health Act makes significant advancements in codifying protections available to women in the workplace.

In 2014, a National Multi- Sectoral Action Plan against Gender-Based Violence was developed to facilitate the implementation of activities including a public awareness campaign, capacity building for the judiciary and law enforcement to respond to gender-based violence (GBV). In addition, standardize protocols and procedures were developed to respond to GBV across agencies.

The Gender Affairs Division – guided by the National Action Plan - commenced in 2015 a series of ongoing activities that included:

- the development and facilitation of annual antiviolenace campaign in educational institutions and communities in the form of weekly radio programmes, community surveys and consultations, and with the use of social media platforms.

- Implementation of a Victim Support Programme in communities as a means to provide psychosocial, socioeconomic and empowerment support to victims of domestic violence.
- Undertaking of the Positive Reinforcement Programme for the Rehabitable (PRPR) which is a rehabilitation programme for the perpetrators of domestic violence.
- Men As Partners (MAP) programme that includes the involvement of men in combatting gender-based violence.
- Ongoing training of police officers and key stakeholders in the implementation and enforcement of the Domestic Violence Act of 2015.
- In 2020, the Gender Affairs Division (GAD) implemented a Victim Support Programme and a Domestic Violence Hotline

In 2015, the GAD, in collaboration with the Central Statistical Office and the Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force, spearheaded a project to strengthen the data collection procedures in an effort to better record reported incidents of domestic violence. The Division of Gender Affairs, along with its partners, has created a standardized tool refer to as “Victim of Crime Data Form’ and database in which sex disaggregated crime data is collected and collated. As part of this initiative there now exists sex disaggregated data on several criminalized forms of gender-based violence. This initiative is critical considering the urgent need for evidence-informed state responses. It also demonstrates the possibilities for partnerships across departments to address Gender Based Violence.

In addition, a Crisis Centre was established in 2007 by the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to provide security and empowerment of victims of domestic abuse and related acts of violence against women and children. Its mission was to provide protection for domestic violence victims in a safe and contained facility, and to socially empower them. Its purpose is to provide emergency and short-term care and safety to victims of domestic violence for up to 90 days. In addition to providing residential, empowerment and therapeutic services to victims, the Crisis Centre through the Gender Affairs Division provides social protection cash transfers to victims and survivors to aid in the effective reintegration into families and communities.

In November 2017, the GoSVG approved the establishment of a National Commission on GBV, which serves as an oversight body to monitor and report on international conventions and agreements that SVG is signatory to. Now renamed the Gender Equality Commission, it serves as a national oversight body in promoting and guaranteeing equality for all. Steps have also been taken to revise the Gender Equality Policy Framework and Action Plan.

The Ministry of National Mobilisation, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth undertook a comprehensive review of the sexual offences provisions within the Criminal Code focusing on rape/sexual assaults, age of consent, consensual same-sex sexual activity and sexual offences against people with disability. The report presented recommendations for reforms to the laws to meet good practice human rights standards in order to protect all

citizens against sexual violence whilst ensuring individual autonomy over consensual sexual relations.

The country was the first in the Eastern Caribbean to adopt a National Child Protection Policy and establish a Child Development Division in 2015. The Government enacted legislation on Child Care and Adoption, on Status of Children, and on domestic violence which works in tandem with the National Child Protection Policy.

There is a specialized unit in the Royal Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force, the Anti-trafficking in Persons Unit (ATIPU) that was established in 2012, which investigates cases of human trafficking. This Unit is legislated by The Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act was enacted on September 29, 2011 by the Parliament of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, which criminalizes human trafficking in all its forms. In addition, a Sexual Offences Unit within the police force was established in 2018 to investigate reports of rape, indecent assault and other related cases in an expedited manner.

Progressive steps have been taken in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines towards improving the statistical system with a gender perspective, and the disaggregation and dissemination of data according to important variables in order to improve analysis to reflect the diversity of women’s situations.

Significant improvements also have been realized in the area of access to sexual health and reproductive services. The Government, through partnership with donor agencies, provides access to women to be educated and informed of their sexual and reproductive rights as well as access to family planning services. Additionally, family planning services are integrated into primary health care at no cost to users.

Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress

Table 10: Goal 5 Indicators and Progress

SDG Target	SVG Progress
End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.	
Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.	
Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.	

SDG Target	SVG Progress
Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.	Green
Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.	Yellow
Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.	Yellow
Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.	Yellow

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- No trend data available
- Limited or no progress
- Insufficient data/not applicable

Strategies and Actions Needed to Achieve Goal 5

Promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women in all spheres of life remains a priority of the government. The Government is committed to gender equality and recognizes the need for greater levels of gender mainstreaming to promote the economic, social, cultural and political empowerment of women; as well as ensure that gender mainstreaming initiatives are included in all national policies, plans and programmes. The country also needs to revise its draft National Policy on Gender Equality. Additionally, there is need to increase the dissemination of the Domestic Violence Act #7 of 2015 and to intensify efforts at community education on the penalties and provisions enshrined in the Act. Data collection on gender-based violence also needs to be strengthened to allow for evidence-based policy and decision-making to address the issues. A 2014 report presented to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against women stated that obtaining data on violence against women is challenging and mechanisms need to be developed to improve data collection.

Teenage pregnancy remains an area that needs to be addressed. This issue is a major challenge with respect to the continuing of education for those teens who become pregnant while attending secondary school. The Gender Affairs Division successfully implements the successful Re-Entry of Teen Mothers Programme which has increased access to educational opportunities and tertiary level education for teen mothers.

To have more equitable, socially just and inclusive outcomes with respect to gender equality, there needs to be an increase in financial and human resources for the implementation of current and desired future programmes.

SDG 6: SVG's Progress

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



Availability and access to potable water supply is one of the fundamental determinants of health, quality of life and progress towards sustainable development. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' renewable water sources reach about 100 million cubic meters every year. Demand for potable water in the islands is just above 1 percent of the available water supply. The wooded, volcanic mountains in Saint Vincent is divided into 16 watersheds and accompanied by numerous small streams. The average annual rainfall is 3,800 mm inland, and 1,600 mm on the coast. However, the forested interior of Saint Vincent can receive as much as 5,100 mm, while the Grenadines may receive as little as 460 mm. Generally, mainland Saint Vincent does not experience severe water supply constraints, the Grenadines, however, are highly stressed during the dry season due to lack of available freshwater resources.

Average national demand for water on the island is met mostly by the surface freshwater sources, but the abundance of rivers and streams ensures that a surplus of water is generally available. In the drier islands of the Grenadines, on the other hand, streams and rivers are not available and water is mainly harvested from rainwater and underground water sources. Mainland Saint Vincent has 100% coverage provided by the Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA) while the Grenadines which have no surface water rely heavily on rainwater harvesting and few artesian wells.

The impact of climate change on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) has been well documented, and projections from recent climate modelling carried out in the Caribbean suggest that many Caribbean islands are likely to become more water stressed in the future, as a result of climate-induced temperature increases, overall decrease in rainfall, lengthening of dry seasons, more intense rainfall events, more intense hurricanes and sea-level rise. Though water shortage is not a problem in the islands, steady drying of river streams and degrading water quality is predicted to become a problem as the population increases and new industries emerge. In fact, currently, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is experiencing moderate to extreme drought conditions.

The mainland Saint Vincent is relatively well served with water distribution networks, and the population is supplied by 12 drinking water systems with a total average daily production of 5.51 million Imperial gallons per day (mgd) (25,000 m³). There are also 70 public standpipes located throughout the country which provide ready access to potable water as a basic requirement and serve the less fortunate residents. Sources of supply of water in the Grenadines include rainwater storage tanks from roof catchments – private and public; public concrete rainwater catchments; seasonal ponds and wells; water transfers from property to property; and transfers by sea from Saint Vincent. A number of wells and boreholes exist in the larger Grenadine islands either for test

purposes (under the Groundwater Management Programme) or as a source of freshwater for domestic use by residents or commercial entities. Recently, desalination as a source of potable water is being used as an adaptation measure to climate change and to guarantee freshwater supplies to large hotels, other tourism investments and community residents.

Safely managed sanitation services include: flush toilet linked to sewer; flush toilet linked to septic tank; pit latrine ventilated and elevated/VIP; and, pit latrine ventilated and not elevated.

Key Achievements

The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) scored Saint Vincent and Grenadines at 92/100 for the quality and quantity of its water resources which means that for both water and sanitation the country was assessed as doing very well in the management of both water and sanitation services.

In 2013, the Ministry of Health Wellness and the Environment developed a Water Safety Plan for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to ensure that the public water supply in SVG is safe for human consumption, and that it meets the health-based standards and other regulatory requirements. This water safety plan is an important tool to contribute to water security, reduce health risk to humans from consumption of poor quality water, and guide future interventions and investments by water utilities, health regulators, other key government agencies, the private sector and society as a whole to ensure potable water is available and accessible.

The indicators below provide a snapshot of some of the achievements of the country with respect to water and sanitation. Progress has been made in achieving universal and equitable access to safe water and adequate sanitation and hygiene for all. The table below shows that the majority of the population, 93.8 percent has access to safely managed drinking water series as well as using managed sanitation services, with the majority of the population (87.6 percent), having universal access to improved sanitation facilities.

Table 11: Indicators of Water and Sanitation

Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (2018)	Rural Saint Vincent: 90.6 Urban Saint Vincent: 96.2 Grenadines: 97.3 Total SVG: 93.8
Proportion of population using managed sanitation services, including a hand washing facility with soap and water (2017)	Rural Saint Vincent: 87.3 Urban Saint Vincent: 99.9 Grenadines: 97.3 Total SVG: 93.8

Source: Statistical Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

A saltwater reverse osmosis plant in Bequia, developed through a climate change adaptation project executed by the Caribbean Community Center for Climate Change (CCCCC) continues to

provide wide scale access to desalinated water at the community level. The plant has the capacity to produce 30,000 gpd with an integrated 4,500 gallon holding tank, 70 kW photovoltaic system and transmission lines, and combined storage of 60,000 gallons. The freshwater produced supplies approximately 200 households in the community of Paget Farm (approximately 1,000 residents) which requires the plant to be working at approximately only 65 percent of its full capacity (CCCCC, 2012).

Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress

Table 12: Goal 6 Indicators and Progress

SDG Target	SVG Progress
By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	
By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.	
By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.	
By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.	
By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels.	
By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.	
Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.	

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- No trend data available
- Limited or no progress
- Insufficient data/not applicable

Strategies and Actions Needed to Achieve Goal 6

A national environment summary for SVG identified the following six major environmental issues, all of which have implications for water resources management in SVG: the effects of climate change; deforestation; land degradation; loss of agricultural lands to development; pollution of

coastal water and river systems; and solid waste. These challenges need to be factored in and programmes and projects designed to ensure that the country maintains and improves the quality of its water and sanitation services. The Government also proposes to engage in a range of other initiatives to support the sustainable use of water. Chief among these are:

- Strengthen integrated water resources management.
- Improving the protection and management of water resources.
- Developing measures to promote sustainability of the water supply.
- Improving the quality of the potable water supply.
- Establish mechanisms for both water conservation and efficiency especially within the context of new and emerging industries.
- Establishing a national water commission.
- Strengthening the existing Integrated Watershed Management Plan.
- Upgrading the system for the collection, monitoring and management of hydrological and other data on water resources.
- Reviewing and amending legislation regarding water supply and usage.
- Investigating water resources below ground.

SDG 7: SVG's Progress

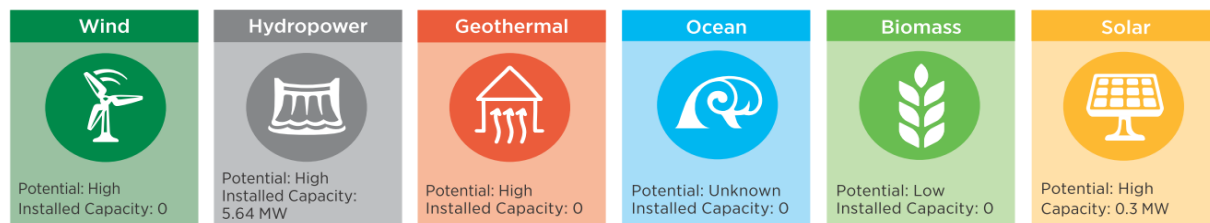
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continues to prioritise the diversification of its energy resources and energy security, which could be threatened due to declining global oil reserves, expansion in emerging industrial countries and continued conflict in some major oil-producing States. It is the policy of the Government to encourage investment in renewable energy, such as geothermal, wind and solar power in an effort to minimize the effects of the rising price of petroleum. The price per kilowatt hour for electricity in the country ranges from 40 to 50 cents — several times what consumers pay in the United States or in neighboring Trinidad. The use of renewable energy could reduce the country's carbon footprint and also allow for adherence to the 1998 Kyoto Protocol. The Government recognizes that in order to reduce the dependence on imported fuel, a multi-dimensional approach (political, regulatory, financial, technical and policy) is required.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has substantial renewable energy sources to provide for heat (solar thermal, biomass) and electricity (wind, geothermal, hydro, and solar) and possibly fuel (biomass). While the use of hydro power for electricity generation has been a long-standing tradition, further potential exists for additional hydro power exploitation through rehabilitation and expansion of existing plants and development of new sites. Wind and solar potential are both estimated to be high, with average wind speeds measured at 8.1 m/s at Argyle and strong average insolation. Geothermal energy has high potential in the region, and the government has already undertaken studies to develop, explore, and exploit these resources for electricity generation.

Renewable Energy Status and Potential?



Source: Energy Snapshot Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Energy Transition Initiative

Progress is currently being made with respect to activities geared towards the generation of geothermal energy from the heat and water in the foothills of the La Soufrière volcano. If this programme is successful, the Government estimates that the country will be able to generate cheaper energy, save foreign exchange, and reduce budget volatility as a result of fluctuations of oil prices, and move the country closer towards its renewable energy goals.

Key Achievements

The National Energy Policy (NEP) of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was formulated in 2009 and provides a plan for the energy sector (and energy use in sectors such as transportation) in the country that addresses sustainability issues. This document was followed in 2010 by the National Energy Action Plan (NEAP), which consolidated policies into actionable steps. The NEAP outlines prescriptive actions to improve energy planning and management, the energy and petroleum sectors, renewable energy and energy efficiency over the short, medium, and long term. In the NEAP, the country identified a goal of generating 30 percent of all electric output from renewable energy sources by 2015 and 60 percent by 2020.

Areas of focus of the National Energy Action Plan 2009-2030 include energy conservation and efficiency and diversification of energy sources and energy use. The NEAP outlines specific policy issues/themes, and identifies the goals and corresponding actions for each. The Plan proposes a partnership with the private sector in its implementation.

In 2018, over 93 percent of the population had access to electricity.



The Ministry of National Security, Air and Sea Port Development confirms that in 2018 renewable energy generation was 17 percent of total installed generating capacity with almost 20.0 percent of the island of Saint Vincent’s energy being supplied by hydropower.

In 2019, the first solar battery storage microgrid, located on the island of Union Island in the Grenadines was commissioned. The microgrid has reduced the use of diesel for the generation of electricity while providing increased energy security and inherent resiliency to climate impacts. The project produces enough renewable energy to reduce the dependence on diesel generators for up a period of 6 to 10 hours per day, and results in a significant reduction in both greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2019, the construction of another modern solar microgrid facility commenced on the island of Mayreau. When commissioned, this will have the capacity to power 33.0 percent of Mayreau’s electricity demand.

Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress

Table 13: Goal 7 Indicators and Progress

SDG Target	SVG Progress
By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.	
By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.	

SDG Target	SVG Progress
By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.	

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- No trend data available
- Limited or no progress
- Insufficient data/not applicable

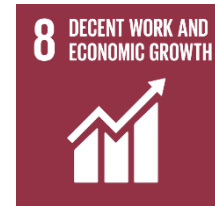
Strategies and Actions Needed to Achieve Goal 7

Key areas of focus that are required to achieving goal 7 and which will be advanced beyond 2020 include:

- Liberalising the energy market to encourage private sector participation in renewable energy development.
- Improving the regulatory and administrative framework for the efficient functioning of the energy sector. Promoting energy efficiency and conservation in the public and private sectors.
- Increased exploration and utilization of renewable energy technologies and creating the incentives to do so.
- Promote energy efficiency and conservation practices among consumers through public education.
- Implement activities to reduce energy use in the transportation sector

SDG 8: SVG's Progress

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), vulnerable to external shocks, including natural disasters. In late 2019, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) predicted a GDP growth rate of about 2.3 percent for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 2020. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) broadly concurred with the IMF's projection for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' 2020 progress, suggesting 2.4 percent growth. These projections are expected to change given the new realities being posed by the global pandemic COVID-19, including the closure of key areas of activity in the country such as tourism and overall global demand for goods and services. Essentially, this VNR cannot be written without placing it in the context of the global pandemic – COVID-19 and the impacts now and in the future that the country will face. Careful analysis and assessment of how these impacts would affect the country's development prospects and consequently the advancement of the SDGs is part of the analysis contained in this report.

Like all other countries in the region, the global pandemic has had significant impact on the economy of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, with economic industries such as tourism completely halting activities. A drop in fiscal revenues, combined with additional direct health and social expenditures, will increase the fiscal deficit and financing needs. Government finances have come under increasing pressure. In other words, lower tourism receipts and remittance inflows, coupled with decreased foreign direct investment, have given rise to an urgent balance of payments need. Construction activity has also slowed, and significant private and public sector projects are likely to be affected.

The Government also faces large fiscal demands to immediately increase public health spending and support the most vulnerable. The IMF approved a disbursement to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines following its request under the Rapid Credit Facility (RCF) mechanism, for US\$16 million, to help cover its balance of payment and fiscal needs stemming from the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Government responded to the pandemic by swiftly implementing containment measures and a fiscal package, which includes an increase in funding for the health sector, various public construction projects to generate jobs, financial support to the agriculture and fishery sector, and programmes to support displaced workers and the most vulnerable.

Pre-COVID 19, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines economy experienced varying levels of growth. The country is considered to have “low” economic strength reflecting the small scale of the economy and dependence on the tourism sector, which exacerbates vulnerability to external shocks. The country also is highly susceptible to environmental risks, particularly weather-related shocks.

Notwithstanding, the 2020 government budget (EC \$1.2 billion) was the largest seen by the country and was -designed to accelerate economic transformation and diversification and stimulate growth in jobs and the decent work agenda. With respect to employment, the Government had anticipated that growth in a number of economic sub-sectors would lead to an increase in employment – growth in sub-sectors were expected for the construction, hospitality, manufacturing, agriculture and fisheries sectors.

Key Achievements

While the country has always been focused on agriculture, tourism and remittances to spur growth, in the last few years, there has been greater emphasis on the diversification of the economy. These include for example activities related to manufacturing, the development of the medicinal cannabis industry which was advanced with the passage of enabling legislation in 2018 and the establishment of the associated regulatory authority and the development of the business process outsourcing industry (e.g. call centres). In the energy sector, exploratory drilling commenced to access geothermal resources in the La Soufrière region for electricity production – a move that is welcomed by the private sector and other stakeholders given the high Kwh price of electricity and its impact on the overall competitiveness of the economy.

A number of strategic reforms to strengthen the country's Fiscal Policy Framework have been implemented in the public sector that provides the foundations for spurring growth of the economy. Chief among these have been the adoption of new procurement legislation; amendments to the Financial Administration Act, and regulations to guide the operation of the Fiscal Contingency Fund. A new tax act to enable efficient and effective tax administration was enacted. Regulations for more effective monitoring and oversight of state enterprises were passed. In 2019, the First Fiscal Reform and Resilience Development Policy Credit Project, funded by the World Bank was launched with the intention of building a more resilient economy by strengthening fiscal policy, promoting more effective public financial management and building buffers to better cope with natural disasters or other economic shocks.

In 2020 and pre-COVID-19, the Government made provision for a 2.0 percent salary enhancement for public sector officials, bringing to 4.5 percent the total increases since 2018. Approval was also granted for a 25.0 percent wage increase for certain low-paid part time workers in an attempt to improve workers' overall compensation. This 25.0 percent wage increase for low-paid workers is part of a multifaceted plan in the Government's continued efforts to reduce poverty, vulnerability and inequality and is aligned to the SDG agenda of leaving no one behind and more importantly placing emphasis on putting in place initiatives to ensure that those furthest behind are accounted for first. The attempt therefore is to ensure that social protection strategies are well accounted for in the government's budget and that the social safety net is strengthened allowing the Government to continue to invest in areas such as geriatric care, reduced undernourishment, and the protection of citizens from weather events and climate change.

The Government also is increasing the numbers and types of incentives it provides specifically for youth in an attempt to reduce youth unemployment. Efforts to strengthen a culture of entrepreneurship are also being explored through the Promoting Youth Micro Enterprises (PRYME) Programme.

With respect to investments, the UNECLAC has indicated that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, has been over the last decade, one of the largest per capita attractors of Foreign Direct Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress

Table 14: Goal 8 Indicators and Progress

SDG Target	SVG Progress
Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 percent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries.	
Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labor-intensive sectors.	
Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-,small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.	
Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation.	
By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.	
By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.	
Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.	
By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.	

SDG Target	SVG Progress
Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.	

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- No trend data available
- Limited or no progress
- Insufficient data/not applicable

Strategies and Actions Needed to Achieve Goal 8

Despite many gains in the economy there remains a number of critical areas that need to be addressed that would lead to higher levels of GDP and therefore better development outcomes. In other words, achieving a modern, competitive, post-colonial economy will require not only significant investments in ICT, tourism, infrastructure, renewable energy and entrepreneurship but also changes within the policy and regulatory environments to fuel competitiveness and partnerships for example. Overall to achieve the targets set out under SDG #8, focus will have to be given to job creation and poverty reduction, an increase in domestic and foreign direct investment, an enhanced flow of remittances, an uplift in tourism arrivals particularly after the international airport reopens in mid to late 2020, a revitalisation of agriculture and fisheries, and an improvement in the export of services. Other areas of focus are listed below:

- The country must continue to reform its relatively uncompetitive business environment, much of which is related to delays in bureaucratic approval processes, length of time taken to start a business, complex and burdensome tax system, the high costs of capital and energy; delays in registering property and access to credit among others.
- Issues related to the labour force and the alignment of labour force needs with education and vocational training also need to be addressed – so whilst overall educational outcomes may be increasing, these are not meeting the overall requirements of the labour market.
- Undertake the necessary assessments and provide much needed support to micro and small businesses to expand private sector participation and more so small businesses.
- In the pursuit of the green and blue economies, the Government will also need to assess the new and emerging jobs that could be created in these sectors and ensure that training needs are aligned with the labour market and the opening up of these industries.
- Gender mainstreaming within the labour market.
- Reduce the costs of doing business by: improving energy efficiency; increasing productivity; enhancing efficiency in public delivery of doing business and implementing a judicious mix of fiscal and monetary policies.

SDG 9: SVG's Progress

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

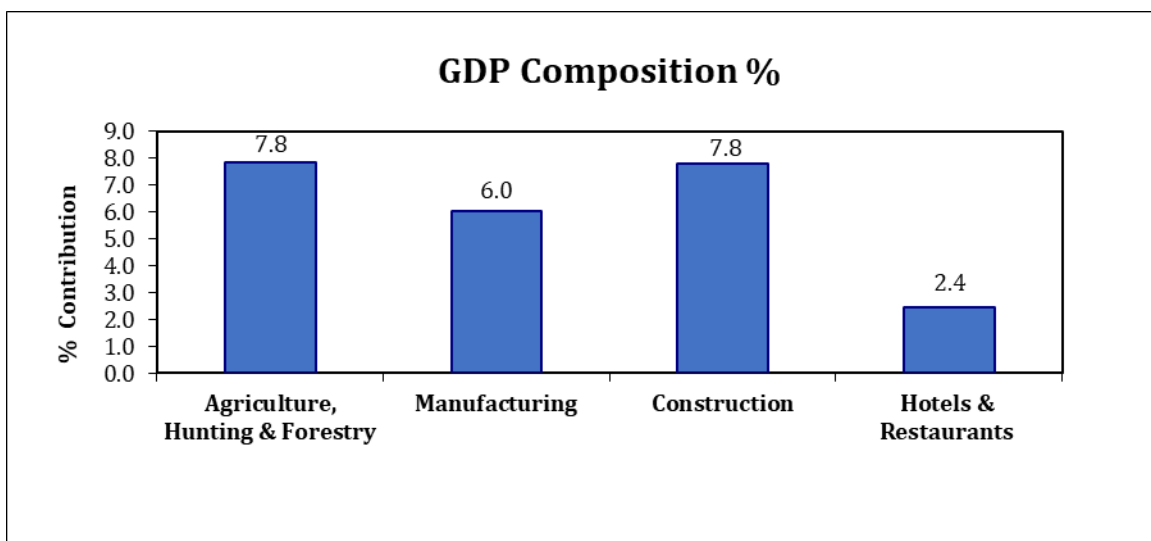


The National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025 presents its first goal as “Re-engineering Economic Growth” and focuses on diversification of the country’s economic base by inter alia enhancing the role of manufacturing and the information and communications (ICT) sectors in addition to continued development of the agriculture, fisheries and tourism sectors. The objective is to enhance productivity and competitiveness in all industries in collaboration with the private sector. Development of the ICT sector recognizes that information is a critical resource and the basis for competition and the establishment of a “knowledge-based society” in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The competitiveness of the manufacturing sector is affected by constraints such as company size, finance, management and increased liberalisation. However, the Government is committed to the continued development of the manufacturing sector.

In 2018, manufacturing contributed 6.0 percent to GDP; agriculture, hunting and forestry contributed 7.8 percent, construction 7.8 percent and hotels and restaurants 2.4 percent as shown in the figure below. These figures have remained relatively constant over the past 10 years.

Figure 3: GDP Composition



Source : Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Statistical Office

In 2017, employment in manufacturing accounted for 5.4 percent of total employment, a decrease of 1.2 percentage points from 2015⁵.

One challenge to the manufacturing sector is access to affordable financing. Financial incentives are available for the industrial sector under the Fiscal Incentives Act. Under the Act, an industry is defined as manufacturing or processing entities, including deep sea fishing and shrimping once they are a part of “an integrated processing operation”. Apart from these incentives, any manufacturing or processing entity can apply for a 100 percent duty free concession on all raw materials used in the production of their final product.

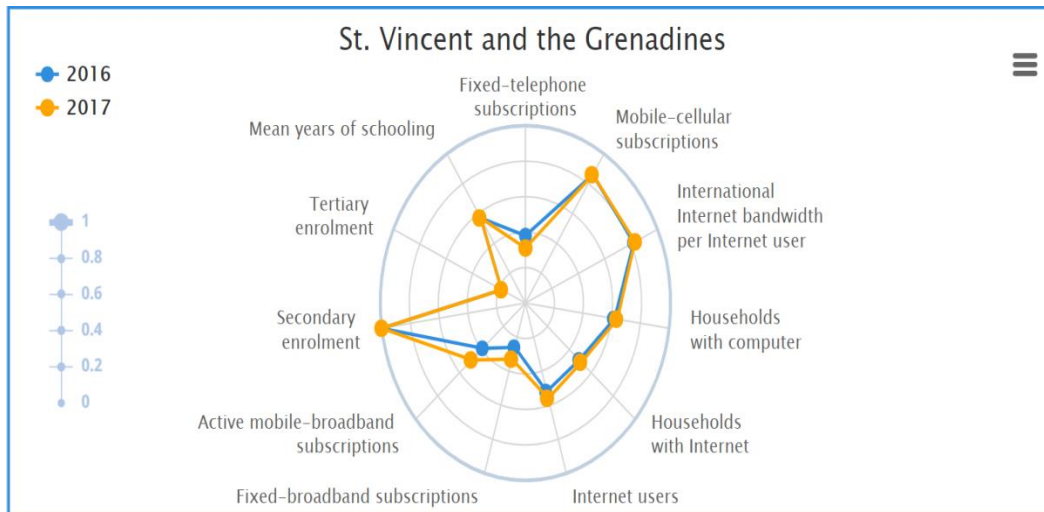
The Invest SVG Angel Investor programme, was piloted in 2019, to provide local entrepreneurs with the opportunity to interact with interested investors, and to receive constructive analysis of their business plans. Also, micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises that have been unable to secure loans from local banks can take advantage of the Eastern Caribbean Partial Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECPCGC), which becomes fully operational in 2020. The ECPCGC, which is funded by the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and other OECS governments, helps these small businesses by partially guaranteeing their loans, thereby increasing banks’ willingness to lend.

Development of ICT underpins the full gamut of social and economic development – from e-Government to improving health services, education and industrial development. The country’s National Development Plan calls for strategic interventions which will promote widespread growth in the ICT sector. These interventions will provide the impetus for the establishment of a “Knowledge-Based Society” for all citizens – allowing all to have access to the full range of information and communications technologies and capabilities. This will provide the opportunity to access free on-line educational programmes, thereby promoting life-long learning.

In 2017, the country ranked 82 out of 176 countries on the ICT Development Index. This rank was based on a number of indicators including: 55.6 percent of the population uses the Internet; 49.43 percent of the population with active mobile-broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants; 63.9 percent of households own a computer; 51 percent of households with Internet access; and the number of mobile-cellular telephone subscriptions per 100 inhabitants of 102.98.

⁵ Central Statistical Office

Figure 4: Internet Connectivity in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



Under the World Bank-funded Caribbean Regional Communications Infrastructure Programme (CARCIP), a high-speed, 140-mile fibre-optic broadband backbone was installed throughout Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In 2019, government buildings, hospitals, and police stations were connected through this network. This allowed for installation of new Government and Emergency 911 IP services to be rolled out at these locations. The Government Wide Area Network (GWAN) will facilitate the implementation of several core government services as well as centralized internet services to connected locations.

CARCIP provides grants to support technology-enabled businesses. At the end of 2019, 25 entrepreneurs had been awarded \$2.6 million in CARCIP grants to help fund their businesses, including a manufacturing/digital fabrication business using wood and metal and a range of ICT-related businesses. CARCIP also provides training to entrepreneurs to contribute to more successful businesses.

The Promotion of Youth Microenterprises (PRYME) programme provides grants and technical assistance to young businesspersons, most of whom would be considered too risky to obtain a bank loan. In 2020, PRYME will make available EC\$4.5 million in grant funds to microenterprises and entrepreneurs. The purpose of this initiative is to facilitate empowerment and greater economic self-reliance among the youth.

The physical transport network is also being upgraded – to complement the digital network. This Government is committed to maintaining the country’s highways and roads in a responsible and sustainable manner with focus on improving the quality of secondary and feeder roads that link to the main thoroughfares. Supported by funding from donors and international development partners such as the Government of Kuwait and the OPEC Fund for International Development

(OFID), the Government is implementing a multi-pronged programme of road repair, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The Argyle International Airport – the largest development project in the country’s history – opened in 2017 paving the way for larger international carriers to service Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The new airport has spurred development in the tourism sector and the fisheries and agriculture industries. The country’s port infrastructure is being improved through a concessionary loan from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and a grant from the United Kingdom Caribbean Infrastructure Partnership Fund (UKCIF). It is the largest single capital project ever approved by the CDB and is the second-largest capital project undertaken by the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, after the Argyle International Airport.

Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress

Table 15: Goal 9 Indicators and Progress

SDG Target	SVG Progress
Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.	
Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry’s share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries.	
Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.	
By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.	
Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending.	

■ Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress	■ Moving away from the target/deterioration
■ Fair progress but acceleration is needed	■ No trend data available
■ Limited or no progress	■ Insufficient data/not applicable

Strategies and Actions Needed to Achieve Goal 9

- Deepen linkages between manufacturing and other sectors, particularly agriculture, fisheries, and tourism and include high levels of stakeholder engagement in the development of strategies
- Promote product differentiation programmes for export markets and high value-added production.
- Target niche markets for new and existing manufactured goods.
- Promote best practices and increase training opportunities to enhance productivity.
- Ensure that resources are channelled into the most productive activities.
- Improve the physical infrastructure including roads, bridges and government buildings.
- Formulate and implement a clearly focused national policy for information and communication technology interventions.
- Strengthen the regulatory framework of the information and telecommunications services sector.
- Facilitate the application of technology, the growth of e-commerce and the development of an appropriate regulatory environment.

SDG 10: SVG's Progress

Reduce inequality within and among countries



SDG 10 calls for a reduction in inequalities by 2030. The more unequal a society is, the more likely there would be large groups of persons who are left behind. Some of the groups in the country that are most impacted or at risk of being left behind include: the youth, the disabled, the elderly and women and girls. The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, recognizes that inequality remains one of the greatest impediments to equitable, people-centred development and is forging ahead through the introduction of a range of interventions to reduce the pockets of inequality that exist. It is well known that reducing inequalities has a greater benefit on a country's growth prospects as inequality exacerbates social problems, compromises efforts to reduce poverty, reduces productivity, and can result in missed opportunities for succeeding generations.

Overall, the country has achieved measurable and significant reductions in indigence and poverty over the last few years and many Vincentians experience an improved quality of life as is evidenced by a growing economy, increasing job opportunities, targeted interventions, and a strengthened social safety net. The Government has attempted to ensure that across all sectors there are attempts to reduce inequalities and improve access and quality of service and in the case of agriculture for example, there is access to capital to support competitiveness and growth. In fact, the country's policy framework is designed to not discriminate against any group and to create equality of opportunity. The Government also recognizes that there is more to be done and have been developing strategies and actions to advance equality of opportunity and target the pockets of poverty that cannot be addressed by broad macroeconomic policy but which required more focused individual attention.

Aligned to reducing inequalities is also advancing the decent work agenda and creating opportunities for new jobs. By accelerating economic and social transformation the ability to access more and better paying jobs is envisaged to emerge in the near future. The Government also is cognizant of the inequalities as it relates to women and girls and how poverty and inequality disproportionately impact women. In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, there still exists a number of low paid jobs that are occupied by women. To overcome some of these issues, the Government in 2020 provided a 25 percent increase to many low-wage part-time jobs that are dominated by women. The country also has documented the fact that a disproportionate number of women are supported by the social safety net – many of them single mothers and elderly women – and require additional support and protection.

To reduce inequalities the Government's focus remains on increasing jobs, improving educational outcomes, diversifying the economy and ensuring that those furthest behind have strategies designed specifically for them in the developmental space. There is also the recognition that climate change can impact the poor and as such policies are being put in place that would lead to

reducing the impacts of climate change and extreme events particularly on the poor and vulnerable, including the elderly.

Key Achievements

The provision of basic services for all Vincentians is satisfactory, with 95 percent coverage in terms of electricity and potable water on mainland Saint Vincent, and access to adequate shelter. The Government also seeks to facilitate the provision of affordable housing for the population particularly those who may find it difficult to access.

The Government continues to increase wages and salaries and improve conditions of employment, in line with the changes designed to transform the socioeconomic landscape of the country.

Social protection programmes are being expanded in an attempt to address the needs of the vulnerable. Across most sectors, programmes or projects that are in place are designed to reduce poverty and inequality. For example, the Government approved the Zero Hunger Trust Fund (ZHTF) Act in 2016. This Act authorized the establishment of the ZHTF Board. The objective of the Fund is to provide the necessary resources to finance multifaceted interventions to eliminate hunger and undernourishment in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Accordingly, the Fund supports existing social safety net programmes currently being implemented by the Government, as well as, designs strategic gender interventions to reduce the number of families and households experiencing poverty and hunger. The ZHTF invests in three cohorts of the population namely the children, youth and the elderly. Two thousand (2,000) primary school students are provided lunches under the School Feeding Programme (SFP) and support is given to the elderly through cash transfers.

The Government continues to inject capital into a Farmers Support Revolving Fund to increase the resources available to farmers to enhance their capacity for increased production. This has proven to be of significance during the COVID-19 pandemic as the country was able to put in place mechanisms to rely on its own resources for food given the slowdown in overall global production of goods and services.

Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress

Table 16: Goal 10 Indicators and Progress

SDG Target	SVG Progress
By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average.	
By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.	

SDG Target	SVG Progress
Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.	
Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.	

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- No trend data available
- Limited or no progress
- Insufficient data/not applicable

Strategies and Actions Needed to Achieve Goal 10

As indicated in SDG #1, it is important that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines complete the enhanced Country Poverty Assessment in a timely manner as this assessment will be critical in enabling the country to promulgate strategies for poverty reduction. The assessment began in 2018 with a proposed completion date in 2020 which may be impacted by COVID-19. While a poverty assessment is undertaken every 10 years, this one will be more in-depth and comprehensive and will determine the characteristics, extent, geographical concentration, severity and causes of poverty in the country. The assessment when completed will help with the development of specific strategies which will better serve the poor. The Assessment will include a Survey of Living Conditions and Household Budgets, to assess the extent of poverty, spending patterns, and will be used to measure inflation; a Participatory Poverty Assessment which will focus on assessing the well-being and coping strategies of the poor; an Institutional Assessment to assess the effectiveness of the social development programmes; and a Macro-Socio Economic Analysis, to assess the global social and economic environment, to determine its impact on the incidence of poverty.

While there are many social protection strategies in place there is a need to strengthen these strategies and make them more efficient.

Other areas of emphasis to 2030 will include:

- Strengthening and implementing specifically targeted safety net programmes.
- Reforming social security.
- Modernising legislation to protect vulnerable populations from discrimination.
- Improve governance of social investment programmes.
- Encourage greater participation and inclusion of historically marginalized groups in the development process.
- Reviewing, upgrading and implementing policies to improve the welfare of the elderly and the differently-abled.

SDG 11: SVG's Progress

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



The Government is committed to the protection and provision of social services for all residents. In general, residents have access to basic services with 95 percent coverage in terms of electricity and potable water on mainland Saint Vincent, and access to adequate shelter – and the goal is to achieve universal access in both Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Ensuring citizens' wellbeing in cities and settlements also includes ensuring a clean environment, provision of critical infrastructure and security and ensuring resilience against natural and man-made hazards and climate change. At the community level, arts, culture and sports play an important part in the quality of life of Vincentians and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is blessed with a rich vibrant cultural heritage.

The National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025 acknowledges that access to adequate shelter is a basic right for all and includes measures for every citizen to have access to safe and affordable housing. This requires further collaboration between the State, the private sector; improving and enforcing existing building codes and regularization of informal human settlements. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is characterized by a relatively high number of homeowners – for example, in 2012 approximately 80 percent of homes were owned by the residents. Also, the Government facilitates the provision of affordable housing.

The Government aims to provide to all citizens fundamental infrastructure such as roads, water and sewerage, coastline protection, energy, information and communication technology – with special emphasis on the most vulnerable – the elderly, disabled and the poor. The Government has spent a significant proportion of its annual budget on the construction, upgrading and rehabilitation of roads. The road network has been improving over the years, in spite of challenges of the increased number and size of vehicles and the country's topography. In the last two decades, there has been an eightfold increase in the number of automobiles in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. This includes minivans used by privately owned public transport providers. Significant resources are being channeled to ensure that the road network is adequately maintained, upgraded and expanded.

The geographic location of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines exposes it to both natural and man-made disasters. During the last decade, various tropical storms, hurricanes and unseasonal weather conditions affected Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. These included hurricane Tomas in 2010 and a catastrophic trough system in December 2013. These storms and other hazard events have severely affected the lives and livelihoods of many in all communities across the country. Therefore, communities need to develop their capacity to respond and adapt to disasters.

Protection of the land, water and air are required to ensure the health of the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The country generates approximately 32,000 tonnes of solid waste per year. The National Development Plan places emphasis on the development of appropriate standards for both solid and liquid waste management, in accordance with international and regional best practices.

According to the Human Development Report 2019, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ranks 94 out of 189 countries under “Environmental Sustainability” which takes into account elements related to forests, air and water quality, renewable energy and biodiversity. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ranks 136 out of 180 countries on the 2018 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) for “Air Pollution” based on the intensity of sulphur dioxide(SO₂) and Nitrous Oxide (NO_x) emissions, which have the potential to cause respiratory illnesses. However, the country does better with respect to the major greenhouse gases (GHGs) and ranks 61 out of 180 countries for “Climate and Energy”, which is based on the level of CO₂, methane, N₂O and black carbon, a climate pollutant.

Key Achievements

The Government has built middle, low and no-income homes and ensured that civil servants have an easier path to home ownership through the establishment of 100 percent mortgages. The Lives to Live programme has provided assistance to disabled, infirmed and vulnerable Vincentians through refurbishments, rehabilitations and new homes. There has also been increasing investments in sporting facilities within communities.

The Government has engaged in structured land distribution to Vincentians, ensuring that they have affordable and secure title to their properties. Low- and middle-income housing developments in Green Hill, Clare Valley and Richland Park are being enhanced.

Since 2017, the Ministry of Housing has distributed building materials to homeowners affected by past weather events or those vulnerable to future storms. Those materials have helped to repair or fortify unsound and unsafe homes across Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in particular those in areas with the greatest vulnerability to climate change.

Amendments are being made to the Town and Country Planning Act and its related Building Regulations to strengthen the country’s resilience to climate change. The amended Town and Country Planning Act will include mandatory provisions for undertaking Environmental Impact Assessments, and subdivisions of land, to strengthen land use and development planning with a view to increasing climate resilience and coastal protection. The revised Building Regulations set new standards and procedures for obtaining Planning Board approval in the construction of new buildings; the alteration of existing structures; inspection; and environmental impact.

The Government is currently reviewing its new Housing Policy, which will seek to improve resilience and manage the growth of informal settlements.

The Government continues to make significant investments in climate resilience, disaster response, renewable energy and vulnerability reduction with EC\$99.6 million planned for expenditure in 2020. This represents EC\$17 million more than the corresponding period, 2019.

A Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) for the transport sector has been finalized. The NAMA focuses on energy efficiency and renewable energy in the transport sector – as well as an improved public and private transportation system.

In 2019, the Pedestrian Access for Village Enhancement (PAVE) programme, funded through grant financing from the United Arab Emirates, was introduced. It provides access paths, walkways, steps, handrails, wheelchair ramps and inter-village connections to make communities more accessible and sustainable. Over the two-year life of PAVE, the project will build almost 40 miles of access paths in villages across the country.

There is significant investment in improving the road network by expanding major roads to accommodate larger and longer vehicles, reinforcing and widening bridges and upgrading village and feeder roads to facilitate greater rural economic activity. Three major projects are being implemented: Two overlapping road reconstruction projects, funded by Kuwait and the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), will undertake reconstruction of approximately 50 km of roads in over 20 communities. Also, The Caribbean Development Bank-funded National Disaster Management Programme (NDM) is repairing and rebuilding roads and bridges in over five communities.

Under the Kingstown Clean-Up, the capital city is being made more attractive and accessible for Vincentians and visitors by creating a cleaner, safer and more welcoming city. This includes: preparing sites for the relocation of some vendors, and finalising designs for the improvement of public gathering spaces, like Heritage Square. This is being implemented in collaboration with the informal sector and business community.

The Government is committed to further enhancing the quality of life and developmental potential of the Grenadines and is working with the private sector and NGOs in those islands. The Canouan investors, the Mustique Company and a host of environmental NGOs on Union Island have continued to support education, the environment and village enhancement.

Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress

Table 17: Goal 11 Indicators and Progress

SDG Target	SVG Progress
By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.	■
By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.	■
By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.	■
Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage.	■
By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.	■
By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.	■
By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.	■

■ Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress

■ Fair progress but acceleration is needed

■ Limited or no progress

■ Moving away from the target/deterioration

■ No trend data available

■ Insufficient data/not applicable

Strategies and Actions Needed to Achieve Goal 11

There are many strategies that are required to advance SDG 11, among these are:

- Finalisation of the national land use policy and land-use zoning plans.
- Implementation of the National Physical Development Plan.
- Ensuring adherence to the Building Codes.
- Continuing efforts to regularize existing squatter settlements and relocate settlements where necessary.

- Strengthening the country's waste management system - including all forms of waste – solid, hazardous, e-waste, among others.
- Exploring the development of a waste-to-energy initiative.
- Revitalizing towns other than Kingstown to become multifunctional centres, thereby reducing the urge toward lower density development and encroachment on valuable agricultural lands.
- Developing a comprehensive road maintenance programme, as well as a road safety public awareness programme.
- Formulating procedures to ensure that all commercial and public buildings have disaster plans.
- Strengthening capacity to undertake search and rescue operations.
- Developing post-trauma needs assessment programmes.
- Encouraging the documentation and preservation of Vincentian culture and encouraging outstanding artistic and cultural achievements.
- Stimulating the performing arts and strengthening traditional cultural forms.
- Providing adequate protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

SDG 12: SVG's Progress

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Sustainable consumption and production are embedded within the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2025 and is key to the country's efforts to accelerate its economic transformation. Sustainable consumption and production patterns facilitate movement toward the green economy and the blue economy and include ensuring resource efficiency, waste prevention and management, and innovation in production processes and service delivery. These support the country's goal of diversifying its economy to include more focus on tourism, international financial services, agro-processing, light manufacturing, renewable energy, creative industries and information and communication technologies.

In 2019, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was ranked 130 out of 190 countries in the 2018 World Bank Doing Business report – and 8 in the Caribbean. This is being addressed by the newly-established Ease of Doing Business Unit, which is in the process of identifying and analysing impediments to establishing and engaging in business in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The Unit is examining issues from banking and customs regulations to legislative or information deficits.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines views itself as a unique destination in the Caribbean that offers a multi-island archipelago, volcanoes and mountains, black and white sand beaches, waterfalls and rivers, sailing and snorkelling, a unique history, one-of-a-kind cultural events and is developing a multi-pronged tourism industry that will be sustainable and will ensure that optimal benefits accrue to the people of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The Government signed on to the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, which protects the marine resources on which much of the industry depends. The National Oceans Policy 2018 and Action Plan outlines the framework for protecting the country's marine resources and their sustainable use to support food security and economic development.

Energy is the building block of national development and the National Energy Action Plan 2009-2030 promotes energy conservation, energy efficiency, and diversification of energy sources and energy use. The Action Plan promotes energy efficiency in electricity generation and consumption through energy audits, fiscal incentives, awareness programmes, and efficiency standards. The Plan also recommends import and sales of domestic appliances in accordance with rules of the European Appliance Label or U.S. ENERGY STAR® programmes. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has benefited from early investments in utility-scale hydropower. The expansion of the renewable energy resources (wind, solar, geothermal) will diversify the country's energy generation mix. With the existing push to streamline net metering regulations, allow independent power producers,

and establish financing mechanisms, these renewable resources can be exploited to their full potential.

Management of solid and liquid wastes – and air pollution – is an important part of sustainable consumption and production. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is a signatory to the Cartagena Protocol on land-based sources of marine pollution, the Stockholm Convention on persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their disposal. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has attained its agreed target under the Montreal Protocol and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) have now been completely phased out. The country is working towards achieving the targets of the Kigali agreement to reduce hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs).

Key Achievements

The Government implemented energy efficiency public awareness campaigns to raise awareness and promote energy-efficient behaviours among government employees in the workplace. Financial incentives implemented to promote energy efficiency included a 100 percent excise tax and 15 percent value added tax on incandescent lights, coupled with a zero tax on compact fluorescent lamps. The Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) for the transport sector calls for increasing on energy efficiency and renewable energy in the transport sector. Considerable investment is taking place in the development of renewable energy resources (see Goal 7).

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations were developed in 2015 under the Town and Country Planning Act, but are not yet in force. Also, requirements for EIAs are included in various sector policies and plans, for example the draft Marine Tourism Policy.

Regarding waste management and pollution, the following have been implemented since 2015:

- The draft Integrated Chemicals Management Act developed in 2018 is intended to guide the development of a national chemical management act for the robust management of pesticides and other chemicals throughout their life cycle. The goal is to establish appropriate mechanisms to safeguard human health and ecosystems from chemical pollution.
- Development of an integrated Wastewater Management Strategy and Effluent Regulatory Standards commenced in 2020. This is expected to develop and implement a programme to reduce land-based source marine pollution.

The Government banned Styrofoam and single-use plastics to reduce some of the solid waste generated by consumers. There is an active private sector scrap metal recycling export programme in place but other recycling opportunities are limited.

Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress

Table 18 Goal 12 Indicators and Progress

SDG Target	SVG Progress
Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries.	
By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.	
By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.	
By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.	
Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.	
Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.	
By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.	

■ Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress	■ Moving away from the target/deterioration
■ Fair progress but acceleration is needed	■ No trend data available
■ Limited or no progress	■ Insufficient data/not applicable

Strategies and Actions Needed to Achieve Goal 12

Sustainable consumption and production practices requires the efforts of both the government and private sector and ensures that production patterns are based on efficiency and the use of cleaner technologies for example.

- Develop a green procurement policy for the Government to become part of the overall public procurement framework.
- Ensure that sustainability and resource efficiency considerations are incorporated into national tourism policies and plans.
- Incorporate the EIA Regulations into all areas of national development.

- Ensure that future local and foreign investments take into account cleaner technologies in production and also take on board environmental stewardship guidelines as in the case of the tourism sector to achieve higher levels of resource efficiencies.
- Create additional mechanisms to engage in more recycling programmes to reduce the amount of waste disposed.
- Develop more awareness campaigns related to waste management, recycling and sustainable consumption.

SDG 13: SVG's Progress

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



The Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines continues to place high priority on climate change adaptation and is committed to building resilience, protecting the country's infrastructure and importantly safeguarding lives and livelihood.

According to the vulnerability assessment performed as part of the Second National Communication to the UNFCCC, climate change is likely to affect all aspects of Vincentian life. The agriculture sector is especially sensitive to extended periods of drought, higher temperatures, unevenly distributed rainfall and natural disasters. The coastal zone is also threatened by climate change since more than 90 percent of the critical infrastructural development lies on a narrow coastal belt less than 8m above sea level. This area is thus vulnerable to sea level rise, shoreline inundation and degradation of mangroves and reefs, which have been severely affected by higher than normal sea surface temperatures and droughts followed by massive storm surges. The health sector is affected by a change in climate and has had to manage the burden of climate-sensitive diseases or other related conditions resulting from climate change, such as temperature-related morbidity and mortality and the spread of water- and vector-borne diseases. The water sector is also subject to the negative effects of climate change since the country depends heavily on rainfall to supply its network of rivers and streams and for water harvesting.

With regard to land mass, SVG is rated as the second most disaster-prone country in the world, and in terms of population, the fifth (Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience, 2010). During the last decade, various tropical storms, hurricanes and unseasonal weather conditions affected Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. These included hurricane Tomas in 2010 and a trough system in December 2013. These storms and other hazards including drought have resulted in losses amounting to millions of dollars and severely affected the lives and livelihoods of many with rural areas particularly hard hit. These events are compounded by climate change and have brought to the fore the urgent need for "climate proofing" of key sectors and infrastructure.

Key Achievements

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ranks 61 out of 180 countries for "Climate and Energy" on the 2018 Environmental Performance Index (EPI), reflecting a relatively low level of GHG emissions (CO₂, methane, N₂O) and black carbon, a climate pollutant.

The Government continues to emphasize climate change adaptation, disaster preparedness and sound environmental practice and is accelerating investment in resilience, disaster preparedness and localized, people-centred vulnerability reduction.

A National Climate Change Policy was approved in 2019 with the main objective of achieving a low carbon, resilient development pathway to climate change using an integrated, inclusive, cross-sectoral approach. To support the policy, the National Adaptation Plan was developed under the Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (J-CCCP) Project. The Plan was approved in 2019 and is designed to promote an enabling environment to facilitate the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation in the planning, budgeting and implementation processes, by strengthening the governance structures to enhance synergies between adaptation and disaster risk reduction. This includes the identification, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and communication of adaptation actions; to improve the capacity for data and information collection, management and sharing, determination of climatic risk and access to technology and financing for adaptation; and to implement adaptation actions.

A Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action (NAMA) plan for the transport sector was finalized and is pending cabinet's approval. This focuses on fuel efficiency, hybrid/electric vehicles and improved public and private transportation systems. The National Adaptation Plans (NAP) for the agriculture and water sectors, are pending Cabinet submission.

The Second National Communication to the UNFCCC in 2016 served to enhance awareness and knowledge of climate change related issues and move towards strengthening and mainstreaming of climate change issues and actions into the national planning and development framework. To inform the study, a vulnerability and adaptation assessment was conducted in five sectors: agriculture, coastal zone, health, water and tourism – using a literature review, traditional knowledge, climate models and expert judgment.

A range of projects and programmes related to climate change adaptation are being implemented. Many of these projects are funded by international development partners. Some of these are highlighted below:

- During 2017-2020, the Ministry of Housing has distributed \$14 million in building materials to homeowners affected by past weather events or those vulnerable to future storms. Those materials helped to fix or fortify unsound and unsafe homes across Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in particular those in areas with the greatest vulnerability to climate change. The Government is committed to reducing climate vulnerability by making citizens safer and more secure in their dwelling places, especially for the most vulnerable, including the poor and elderly.

- The Coastal Protection for Climate Change Adaptation for Small Island States in the Caribbean (CPCCA) Project (2014-2018) – funded by KfW, Germany, implemented the following:
 - “South Coast Marine and Coastal Rehabilitation Adaptation Project to Improve Ecosystem Health and Build Resilience to Climate Change- this project focused on improving the reef ecosystem and shoreline protection in the South Coast and also included a public awareness component.
 - “Restoring Ashton Lagoon’s Ecosystem Adaptation to Climate Change while Creating Sustainable Livelihoods Opportunities for the people of Union Island, which focused on restructuring the ecosystem in the Ashton Lagoon while providing opportunities for sustainable livelihood.

- The Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR) financed by Climate Investment Fund is the largest project in Saint Vincent and Grenadines specifically designed to address climate risk and resilience. This is a regional project involving other Caribbean countries - Haiti, Jamaica, Dominica, Grenada and Saint Lucia. Initiatives implemented under this project included the following among others:
 - Fisheries Early Warning and Emergency Response (FEWER) system to provide early warnings of adverse weather to fishers on their mobile phones.
 - The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) has produced awareness raising materials to provide key messages to fishers, fisheries managers, vendors and consumers in SVG and other countries on the impacts of climate change on life below water, and ways to adapt.
 - Development of fishery-related ecological and socio-economic impact assessment and monitoring systems.

- The World Bank-funded Regional Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project (RDVRP) is an amalgamation of the Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project 2011-2018 and the PPCR. It addresses policy, data management, infrastructure and capacity issues in the areas of climate change adaptation and disaster risk management. It seeks to measurably decrease the vulnerability of people and the national economy of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to climate change and natural hazards. The project is expected to end in December 2020. Interventions include training, equipment, curriculum development in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, feasibility and design studies, rehabilitation of three emergency shelters, increased water storage in two Grenadine islands, satellite warehouses for the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) in six communities, design of a referral hospital at Arnos Vale, slope stabilisation, road realignment and bridge rehabilitation works to repair vulnerable segments of the transportation infrastructure and river training to reduce the risk of flooding in various communities.

- Climate Change Adaptation Program (CCAP) (2016-2020), funded by USAID, focuses on climate change data and its use in decision making and aims to strengthen an integrated system for the implementation and financing of sustainable adaptation approaches in the Eastern and Southern Caribbean.
- Climate proofing the Sandy Bay water services improvement project funded by the Climate Development and Knowledge Network. The project aims to assist the Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA) in delivering safe and sustainable water supply services to communities in Sandy Bay.
- The United Nations Development Programme’s Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (UNDP J-CCCP) (2016 – 2019). This Japanese-funded project was implemented by UNDP in eight (8) Caribbean countries – Belize, Jamaica, Dominica, St Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Guyana and Suriname. It was designed to strengthen the capacity of the participating countries to invest in climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies, as prioritised in their Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). The project has three (3) outputs/outcomes: (i) Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to promote alternative low-emission and climate-resilient technologies; (ii) adoption and implementation of mitigation and adaptation technologies; and, (iii) strengthened knowledge networks through shared South-South and North-South experiences. Interventions included, for example, provision of 1000 gallon water tanks to residents on the Grenadine island of Mayreau to increase the storage capacity of the residents, the introduction of heat tolerant small ruminants into the local livestock farming community, the implementation of a Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey which was conducted in 2017 and resulted in engagement with communities and schools on climate impacts and promotion of a locally produced climate song and video entitled, *“Climate Action”*.

The Government continues to invest not only in adaptation actions but also to strengthen disaster risk management and have been putting in place disaster risk financing strategies. In 2019, the Government implemented two revenue measures to help finance a fund that will be available for immediate access in the event of a natural disaster: a 1% charge on consumption, which is collected as VAT; and a small climate resilience levy on hotel guests. The Contingency Fund, has over \$30.5 million - almost 1.5% of the country’s GDP. In 2020, in addition to the continued capitalisation of the Contingency Fund – now in excess of \$31 million – 34 percent of capital expenditure in the 2020 budget is allocated to climate change, renewable energy or disaster response.

The Government is also investing in other disaster risk financing instruments. SVG has been a member of CCRIF SPC (formerly the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility) since 2007 and purchases parametric insurance policies for storms and hurricanes, excess rainfall events and

earthquakes. Also, a portion of the World Bank International Development Association (IDA) allocation is being used for another Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (Cat DDO), which can be immediately accessed after a declared state of emergency. The Government is setting aside an additional US\$20 million in a Cat DDO, which will further enhance the country’s ability to respond quickly in the event of a natural disaster.

Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress

Table 19: Goal 13 Indicators and Progress

SDG Target	SVG Progress
Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.	
Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.	
Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.	

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- No trend data available
- Limited or no progress
- Insufficient data/not applicable

Strategies and Actions Needed to Achieve Goal 13

Key areas of focus that are required to achieving goal 13 and which will be advanced beyond 2020 include:

- Establishing an effective hazard modelling system that would also be key to ensuring that the country invests in sustainable communities.
- Developing appropriate legislative and regulatory frameworks for proper environmental and ecosystems management, and institutional systems for responding to and mitigating against the effects of climate change.
- Continuing to integrate climate change adaptation into plans, policies, legislation and budgeting processes, with dedicated budget lines and appropriate budget markers.
- Improving collection and storage of data relating to climate change and disaster impacts on social and economic sectors.
- Providing small grants for demonstration and pilot projects on mitigation and adaptation, particularly in vulnerable communities.
- Creating micro- and medium-credit facilities to support innovation and adaptation measures particularly among small businesses and groups such as farmers and fisherfolk.

- Improving knowledge on climate vulnerability of the major economic sectors – e.g. agriculture, fisheries, forestry, health, and disaster management and possible adaptation pathways; including consideration of climate change impacts within all sector policies.
- Expanding climate-smart agriculture and other best practices to achieve a climate-resilient agriculture sector.

Emphasis also will need to be placed on:

- Building capacity of key officials to better determine disaster and climatic risks, particularly related to drought, pest infestations (including invasive organisms), storms and hurricanes and slow onset marine hazards.
- Enhancing capabilities for data and information management to support the conduct of climate forecasting, vulnerability assessments, risk, damage and needs assessments, and other critical analysis required for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) programming.
- Improving competencies and skills among the fisher folk community to effectively use emergency communication, safety tools and technologies.
- Increasing investments in the development of community based early warning systems, particularly in high-risk communities.
- Establishing a governance framework for climate adaptation, recognising that there currently is insufficient adoption, replication and maintenance of DRR strategies among farmers, fisher folk and forest users.
- Ensuring that during 2020, continued emphasis is placed on climate change adaptation as there are fears internationally for example that climate change related matters may not be adequately financed post COVID-19 or that efforts will now be shifted to the pandemic leaving other sectors to lag behind.

SDG 14: SVG's Progress

Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has jurisdiction over an extensive marine area along with the associated living and non-living resources. In accordance with international maritime law, the country has declared a 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The marine space is estimated to be 36,000 km², over 90 times its land space.

It is an acknowledged fact that the surrounding oceans contribute to the overall well-being of Vincentians; and offer tremendous potential for creating employment, generating incomes and contributing to overall social and economic development. The country is well placed to capitalize on the blue economy. In recognising this potential, the National Economic and Social Development Plan (2013-2025), under its first goal of “re-engineering economic growth”, has as one of its objectives: *“To optimise the economic contribution made by ocean resources”*.

While a number of existing sectors undoubtedly contribute to the social and economic wellbeing of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the benefits to be derived from the oceans are not fully explored, and neither is there an indication of the precise economic worth of the contribution of the oceans – in other words the economic and social valuation of the blue economy has not been assessed. An approach is needed that coordinates management across sectors and resources and integrates environmental management directly with economic development, fiscal policy and social goals. Such an approach requires a change in how the country views, manages, governs and uses the ocean to advance the blue economy and consequently sustainable development.

The nation’s marine environment constitutes a rich and unique coastal and marine biodiversity, which includes coral reefs, sea-grass beds, mangroves, salt ponds, resident and migratory birds, reef and pelagic fish, lobsters, conch, turtles and algae. Additionally, offshore waters are home to numerous species of marine mammals, turtles and pelagic fish.

Major threats to the country’s marine ecosystems include: rising ocean temperatures and ocean acidification; storm surges; coastal development and the destruction of marine ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves; unsustainable, illegal and destructive fishing practices; overexploited fisheries land-based and ship-based sources of pollution; unregulated extraction of sand near coastal areas; illegal and or unregulated dredging of the seabed; unauthorized construction of groynes; construction in near coastal areas without use of silt traps; introduction of marine invasive species; physical impacts associated with visiting yachts (anchor damage and running aground); inadequate sewage treatment; indiscriminate discharge of effluents; and bilge and wastewater discharge from ships.

Effective governance and management strategies are critical to addressing the challenges posed by the impacts of anthropogenic activities on the marine environment.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is guided by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Management (CRFM) to manage its fish stocks. However, no fish stock assessments have yet been completed for exploited species, and it is not possible to ascertain the status of fish stocks and consequently the sustainability of the sector. The Fisheries Division has recently begun stock assessments for the two main species exported, lobster and conch; the results of the assessments will inform the development of new/revised measures to manage these fisheries.

The measures currently used by the Division to ensure conservation and sustainable use of living marine resources include the implementation of closed seasons (for lobster), and size limits (for lobster, conch and dolphin fish, *Coryphaena hippurus*), establishment and enforcement of no-take zones, and restrictions or prohibitions on certain fishing methods (use of trammel nets is illegal, spear fishing is forbidden in marine conservation areas, there are restriction on net mesh size). The Government also has prohibited the hunting/fishing of Parrot Fish, sea turtles and dolphins.

Key Achievements

The National Ocean Policy (NOP) and Strategic Action Plan 2018-2030 was approved in 2018. Its main objective is to promote marine and coastal resources management, sustainable blue economic growth and investment. The NOP's vision is "to maintain healthy and richly biodiverse oceans by securing, enforcing, and sustainably managing the space in an integrated way so as to promote social, cultural, and economic development". A key to the successful implementation of the NOP is the establishment of an integrated approach to the management of marine resources and the development of appropriate institutional and legal arrangements.

The NOP calls for the establishment of a system of effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected protected areas. There are seven designated marine areas with some level of protection – conservation areas and marine reserves and 2 proposed marine parks – under the Fisheries Act, Marine Parks Act and National Parks Act 2002 and legislation governing certain specific islands within the Grenadines. Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas (2018) is as follows:

Marine Area (EEZ): **27,533 km²**

Marine Area Under Protection: **95.5 km²**

Protected Area in Relation to Marine Area: **35 percent**

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ranks 91 out of 180 countries for Marine Protected Areas on the Environmental Protection Index (EPI). This indicator is aligned with a key objective in the Aichi Targets: the protection of 10 percent of coastal and marine areas globally, which is also the country's national target to be accomplished by 2020 as stated in its Sixth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity submitted in 2019.

The country has started to promote itself as a dive destination and has signed on to the Caribbean Challenge Initiative with the pledge to protect 20 percent of its near-shore marine and coastal resources by 2020.

The NOP reflects Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' commitment to developing the blue economy based on the range of services provided by oceans that are of economic, social and cultural value especially in the areas of fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, transportation, oil and mineral production, education and research. Utilising the resources of oceans in a sustainable manner presents new opportunities for job creation, higher rates of growth, poverty reduction, food security and securing international biodiversity and sustainability obligations.

The country has recently drafted plans and standards that govern aspects of the coastal and marine environment:

- The draft National Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Sector Development Plan (2017-2025)
- Wastewater Management Strategy and Effluent Regulatory Standards (commenced in 2020) to develop and implement a programme to reduce land-based sources of marine pollution.
- Ban on single-use plastics - a phased ban on single use plastics was approved in 2019 to address the problem of plastic pollution in coastal and marine areas. This builds on the Styrofoam ban of 2018.

Other projects and programmes being implemented to allow for the achievement of this goal include:

- The RDVRP, which ends in December 2020, and includes coast-related activities such as constructing coastal defence works in Georgetown and Sans Souci and construction of the Chateaubelair Jetty.
- Improving the Management of Coastal Resources and the Conservation of the Marine Biodiversity in the Caribbean Region Project which is seeking to address marine resource management and strengthen stakeholders' capacity through a common institutional framework for managing marine protected areas (MPA) in the Caribbean Region.
- The PPCR which includes a range of activities such as:
 - Fisheries Early Warning and Emergency Response (FEWER) project (2018): Using an application for mobile phones, fishers are able to receive early warnings of adverse weather and sea conditions and can share their information about local conditions and missing persons.
- The production of awareness raising materials to provide key messages to fishers, fisheries managers, vendors and consumers in SVG on the impacts of climate change on life below water, and ways to adapt. This activity is supported by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM).

- Development of fishery-related ecological and socio-economic impact assessment and monitoring systems.
- Activities aimed at reducing the risks posed by climate change to coastal areas include:
 - the At the Water’s Edge (AWE): Coastal Resilience in Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Project (2011–2016)
 - the Coastal Protection for Climate Change Adaptation in the Small Island States in the Caribbean Project 2014–2018
 - The Climate Change Adaptation in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (CC4FISH) project (2016)
- Sustainable Grenadines (SusGren) Inc. implemented the “Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program” (2015 – 2019), funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and executed by The Nature Conservancy. The project developed the Grenadian Transboundary Multi-use Marine Zoning plan (2017) for the Grenada Bank (which includes both Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) to strengthen conservation efforts and sustainable livelihood initiatives in the two countries. An application was made for the Grenadine Islands to be designated as a transboundary UNESCO marine mixed (cultural/ ecological) World Heritage Site (WHS). Achieving a WHS designation would provide the two countries international protection status, inspire ecotourism and provide further legitimacy for endeavours to protect the environment and culture of the Grenadine Islands.
- The country’s participation in the Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) project (2013 – 2017), executed by The Nature Conservancy to declare and support new Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) and strengthen existing ones. The project provided communities and government agencies with the funding, training and tools necessary to manage the marine and coastal resources – including training for fishers and a regional awareness campaign. The project began processes for the completion of a marine spatial plan in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
- The Climate Change Adaptation of the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector (CC4FISH) project which supports improved awareness on climate change impacts on the fisheries sector; safety-at-sea training, development of aquaculture, value adding in the fish chain and support for a fisheries management plan and Sargassum Management Plan incorporating climate change challenges.
- Partnership with the UN to implement Blue Economy projects under Components 1 and 2 of the SDG Fund.

Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress

Table 20: Goal 14 Indicators and Progress

SDG Target	SVG Progress
By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.	
By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.	
By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.	
By 2020, conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.	
By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.	
By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.	

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- Limited or no progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- No trend data available
- Insufficient data/not applicable

Strategies and Actions Needed to Achieve Goal 14

Whilst the country has been making much effort under SDG #14, there are a number of activities and initiatives that are critical to advancing the blue economy. Some of these are presented below:

- The existing legal and institutional frameworks are to be strengthened to encourage integrated approaches to marine management and to reduce environmental degradation.
- It is important to identify economic priorities for future development of marine sectors/resources.
- Undertake economic assessments, valuation and accounting of marine resources to allow for more informed decision making on their sustainable use and management.
- Increase public awareness with regard to ocean governance issues.
- Ratify the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefits Sharing and establish the necessary legal and institutional provisions. This will highlight the potential commercial value of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines' genetic resources.
- Explore the potential of aquaculture (including aquaponics) and strengthen existing activities such as seamoss farming.
- Conduct assessments and mapping of natural habitats (including, but not limited to, forests, coral reefs, mangroves and other wetlands, and seagrass beds) their condition and extent, rates and causes of habitat loss and the areas most affected – this will assist in developing effective strategies to reduce habitat loss and fragmentation.
- Assess the potential of marine living resources, including under-utilized or unutilized stocks and species, by developing inventories and stock assessments, where necessary, for their conservation and sustainable use.
- Develop and implement evidence-based management plans which may include reducing or suspending fishing catch in particular locations, commensurate with the status of the stock.
- Reduce the adverse ecosystem impacts from fisheries by eliminating destructive fishing practices.
- Limit the introduction of new subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing.
- Review and revise Fisheries and related legislation by including a stronger emphasis on conservation and sustainable use of fisheries resources.
- Strengthen capacity for monitoring, control, surveillance, and enforcement in relation to fisheries management and establish a fisheries data collection system that is regularly updated.
- Strengthen the fishing community's ability to participate in sustainable resource management, for example in development of business management expertise for fisherfolk; training and capacity-building for community co-management of living marine resources, including by means of local fisheries management areas as outlined in the law.

Finally, in the development of an integrated ocean governance framework the Government recognizes the need to promote the development of private/public partnerships and standards that will support existing and emerging ocean industries, and ensure the conservation and sustainability of ocean resources. This is of importance, given the diverse network of private sector activities that is undertaken in the country. These include commercial and sport fishing, aquaculture, boat maintenance, marine aggregate extraction, tourism and recreation, boating, marine transportation and ports, marine navigation, and communications. Local communities also

will need to be encouraged to participate in planning and management strategies and share responsibility for the management of ocean resources. As such, the public should be provided with the space to contribute to the decision-making process and be an integral part in the management of ocean resources.

SDG 15: SVG's Progress

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has a limited resource base that is highly vulnerable to natural and man-made hazards. Forest-related activities include timber production, hunting, charcoal burning and tourism. Development pressures have resulted in deterioration of forest resources. In addition, water from the forest is used to generate electricity and is the sole source for potable water on mainland Saint Vincent. Thus, the use and management of the natural environment is critical to several important economic sectors including tourism and agriculture. Additionally, the conservation of biological diversity is an integral part of the development process. It provides a large number of goods and services that sustain lives and ensure that healthy and viable biological resources are available for future generations.

The total area of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is 389 km². Due to varying definitions of “forest” and inclusion of different forest types in reported statistics, different reports present different values for the total extent of forested area in the country. As reported by the National Parks Rivers & Beaches Authority, total forested area is 302.7 km² and includes mangroves and plantations. Therefore, 77.8 percent of the land area is considered forest. The remainder is used for the cultivation of permanent crops and human settlements.

The Central Mountain Range in Saint Vincent contains a contiguous area of forest, about (13.2 km²), which represents one of the largest remaining tracts of wet forest in the Lesser Antilles. The area exhibits abundant biodiversity, and comprises all of Saint Vincent’s key watersheds, providing the island’s total drinking water supply. In the Grenadines, there are few areas of natural forest cover and there are no perennial streams, therefore, residents depend on man-made catchments, rainwater harvesting, wells, and desalination for water.

The last comprehensive forest survey in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was carried out in 1993. The rate of deforestation was then estimated to be between 3 and 5 percent per annum. Currently, expert opinions suggest that the rate of deforestation is not as high as 3 to 5 percent per annum partially due to the decline of the banana industry, which previously fueled deforestation, although there exists significant and observable deforestation in upland forests (due to illegal cannabis cultivation) and loss and fragmentation of coastal forests (due to residential and commercial development). Regular national forest surveys and habitat inventories are necessary to be able to assess the state of the country’s forests and to address deforestation and land degradation issues.

Species that are endemic to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are all vulnerable, in varying degrees, to extinction due to their very narrow geographical range, small population sizes, and low population densities. The table below shows the status of species in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines which are on the Red List of Threatened Species. The conservation of the country’s national bird, the Saint Vincent Parrot (*Amazona guildingii*) – is an important part of the work programme of the Forestry Department, and is assisted by the Association for the Conservation of Threatened Parrots (ACTP), a German conservation organisation.

Table 21: National Species

Species	Common Name	Status
<i>Chironius vincenti</i>	Saint Vincent Black Snake	Critically endangered
<i>Amazona guildingii</i>	Saint Vincent Parrot	Vulnerable
<i>Tangara versicolor</i>	Saint Vincent Tanager	Stable
<i>Gonatodes daudini</i>	Union Island Gecko	Critically endangered
<i>Oligoryzomys victus</i>	Saint Vincent Pygmy Rice Rat	Extinct

Key Achievements

There are 35 terrestrial and marine protected areas in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. These protected areas have been established under as many as 13 pieces of legislation, including the Forest Resources Conservation Act (1992), the Wildlife Protection Act (1987), and the Fisheries Act (1986), which provide differing levels of protection. Parks and Protected Areas regulations are being prepared, which will harmonize the protected areas framework and strengthen enforcement of the National Parks Act. Total terrestrial area designated and protected by law is 26.3 km². Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ranks #1 out of 180 countries for forest cover on the Environmental Protection Index (EPI) – due to the large portion of the land covered by forests and the relatively low deforestation rate.

The Tobago Cays Marine Park is designated as a regionally recognized protected area under the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region. The Park is now part of a Caribbean-wide network of protected areas that have been identified as being of particular importance to the Wider Caribbean region, that are to be accorded priority for scientific and technical research and mutual assistance, and that are to be protected from activities that would undermine the purposes for which they were listed.

There are over 150 agricultural and non-agricultural species that comprise the medicinal plants of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Growing demand for alternative medicines presents an opportunity for future growth in the locally produced health and herbal products. However, legislation for access and benefits sharing is needed to protect the rights of local communities and to ensure that they benefit equitably from these resources.

The medicinal cannabis industry, legally established in 2019, signals increased economic use of the country's biodiversity and greater diversification in the agriculture sector. The 2018 Medicinal Cannabis Industry Act, which legalizes the cultivation of marijuana for medicinal and research purposes, includes provisions for licence fees to be used for reforestation of lands previously used, which is expected to reduce the rate of deforestation associated with marijuana cultivation.

The National Biodiversity Action Plan (2015 – 2020) has established the target of at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, to be conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. As reported in the Sixth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity submitted in 2019, the target is stricter than the related Aichi target which is the protection of 10 percent of coastal and marine areas globally.

The Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Conservation Fund (SVGCF) was launched in February 2019, and constitutes a new platform for the conservation, protection and management of natural resources. The Fund caters to a variety of projects on environmental protection and conservation implemented by public sector agencies responsible for natural resources, protected areas and biodiversity conservation, local colleges, local or regional NGOs, private corporations and community bodies among others.



The country is participating in the following projects which are expected to support the achievement of SDG #15:

- GEF-funded Preventing Costs of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Barbados and the OECS Countries (2018 – present), is creating platforms to collect data to inform decision-making and policy development on IAS.
- The Cumberland and Perseverance Watersheds Rehabilitation Project (2015+) is funded by the European Union and implemented through the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) under the aegis of the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) Project to rehabilitate these watersheds, which were badly affected by Hurricane Tomas in 2010 and two major trough systems in 2011 and 2013. Together, these two watersheds comprise

most of the central forest reserve/biodiversity corridor on mainland Saint Vincent. These ecological areas provide potable water to downstream communities and for hydro-electricity generation.

- Conserving Biodiversity and Reducing Land Degradation using a Ridge to Reef Approach, GEF 6 project (2019) to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services conservation through an expanded and strengthened Protected Areas system and Sustainable Land Management measures. The project is intended to address land degradation and biodiversity loss in three watershed areas across Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress

Table 22 Goal 15 Indicators and Progress

SDG Target	SVG Progress
By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.	
By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation.	
By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.	
Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.	
By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.	

■ Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress

■ Fair progress but acceleration is needed

■ Limited or no progress

■ Moving away from the target/deterioration

■ No trend data available

■ Insufficient data/not applicable

Strategies and Actions Needed to Achieve Goal 15

The following key strategies will need to be accelerated if Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is to achieve SDG #15.

- Undertake more frequent national forest surveys and habitat inventories to be able to assess the state of the country's forests and to address deforestation and land degradation issues.
- Develop alternative and sustainable livelihood programmes for local communities in protected areas.
- Develop and employ methodologies for the economic valuation, assessment and accounting of natural resources.
- Enact comprehensive legislation to implement the UN Convention on Biological Diversity
- Establish a National Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism.
- Implement harmonised biodiversity education programmes to build on those offered by different agencies.
- Develop a comprehensive national forestry policy.

SDG 16: SVG's Progress

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



The vision for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines embodies inter alia, “remaining a safe and secure place” - for all Vincentians. The country has a stable political environment with a democratic political system, which is based on free and fair elections. This has been supported by a stable macro-economic environment underpinned by an independent and sound judicial system and membership in an integrated OECS legal system known for efficiency, transparency, and reliability. The country places a strong focus on governance issues as it relates to rule of law, justice, transparency and accountability, the delivery of public goods and services and the participation of citizens in various developmental processes. With respect to the latter, the country encourages growth and development of civil society organisations as a critical element in the process of governance.

National security is at the core of social stability and an effective and well-managed security sector protects citizens and visitors alike. Security is often determined by how safe people feel walking the streets at night, how confident they are in the ability of authorities to solve crimes, or how tightly the police are incorporated into village and community life. It is critical that there exist positive relations between civilian population and security services. A sense of security also depends on confidence in the fair, equitable and transparent treatment of citizens before the courts to ensure adherence to the rule of law. It is important that the public is educated about their legal rights and avenues for redress and that they have access to legal services.

In 2018, the homicide rate in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines was reported as 31 per 100,000. Domestic crimes were reported at 361 per 100,000 in 2017⁶. Further, the Human Development Report 2019 ranks Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as 94 out of 189 countries (and 8 among Caribbean countries) for “Human Security”. More recent data show that most categories of violent and property crimes decreased in 2019. For example, murders decreased by over 40 percent, robberies by 30 percent and woundings by over 50 percent⁷.

Regarding children’s rights and care, child and sexual abuse remains an issue with reported cases of child abuse against girls averaging 156 per 100,000 population in 2018; however, this is a 16 percent decrease from 2017⁸.

⁶ Royal Saint Vincent & the Grenadines Police Force

⁷ Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Budget Speech 2020

⁸ Child Protection Unit (2019) as reported in the National Review Of The Beijing Platform For Action +25

To address some of the issues related to crime and violence, the Government developed a comprehensive “Crime Strategic Plan 2018-2021” and in 2019, added over 120 new personnel to the Police, Coast Guard and Fire departments; there are now over 1000 Police officers, 100 members of the Coast Guard and 100 fire fighters in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Also, in 2019, a programme – supported by the Government of Taiwan – was rolled out to provide Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras to monitor the country’s streets and enhance police surveillance: 200 (CCTV) cameras were installed.

The Government continues to focus on reducing the number of unattached youths in the population by developing a range of programmes and projects to steer them away from criminal activities. During the period 2013-2018, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines participated in the USAID Juvenile Justice Reform Project which was implemented in partnership with the OECS. The project focused on the successful rehabilitation and reintegration of youth in conflict with the law. In December 2019, a revised Child Justice Act was enacted. One key aspect of the legislation is that it will allow police, working in collaboration with other juvenile justice service providers, to steer youths who have not committed violent offences away from the criminal justice system and focus on rehabilitation and successful reintegration into their communities. There is a National Commission on Crime Prevention that was established as a bridge between the community and the Government machinery to educate communities about crime prevention.

In 2019, the Government launched the Sports Against Crime initiative, which will complement the Pan Against Crime, Police Youth Club and Coast Guard Summer programmes. Sports Against Crime seeks to engage at-risk youth in productive athletic activities and increase Police presence in communities across the country.

In terms of public sector governance, the government continues to place strong focus on transparency and accountability in public institutions and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of these institutions to deliver goods and services. While there is measurable progress as it relates to areas such as public procurement and financial management, there are also other areas that require strengthening, such as taking steps to improve the legislative framework governing public administration; strengthening the institutional capacity for implementation, monitoring and evaluation as well as statistical capacity. There is also a need to improve the policy and regulatory framework to enhance public-private partnerships to enhance the delivery of services to Vincentians. Another area of focus is on increasing the use of technology and e-services within government.

Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption. In 2019, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ranked 39th, indicating that the country’s leadership and governance structures are transparent and accountable to its people, communities and businesses. A similar set of scores were evident on the World Bank’s Governance Indicators.

The Government’s efforts against trafficking in persons are coordinated by a national task force, led by the Prime Minister. Government efforts included passing the Advance Passenger Information Act that allows authorities to screen for suspected traffickers and trafficking victims, increasing training to relevant government officials, increasing cooperation with foreign governments to combat trafficking, extending and updating the national action plan 2016-2018 to 2020, and improving its public awareness campaigns.

In the area of justice, the country’s national development plan calls for ensuring that there is confidence and trust in the judicial system and that all citizens have equal access to justice regardless of ethnicity, religious persuasion, political affiliation, cultural, social or economic standing. In 2020 the Government added a new criminal court judge and a new criminal courtroom; this was critical to help to reduce the backlog of criminal cases. An addition will also be made to the Magistrates Court.

Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress

Table 23: Goal 16 Indicators and Progress

SDG Target	SVG Progress
Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.	
End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.	
Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.	
Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.	
Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.	
Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.	
By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.	
Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.	

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- Limited or no progress
- No trend data available
- Insufficient data/not applicable

Strategies and Actions Needed to Achieve Goal 16

The following key strategies will need to be accelerated if Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is to advance the achievement of SDG #16:

- Improving the legislative framework governing public administration.
- Strengthening the institutional capacity for monitoring and evaluation.
- Encouraging the public's participation in assessing the transparency, quality and reliability of services provided.
- Creating the framework to enhance public-private partnerships.
- Increasing the use of ICT and e-government in the delivery of services.
- Strengthening the technical capacity of the public service and ensuring that it becomes highly productive and innovative and operating at world-class standards.
- Enhancing institutional capacity in modern detection techniques and crime-solving.
- Broadening the legislative framework to address new forms of crime.
- Enhancing the rehabilitation programmes within penal reform institutions.
- Improving the policy framework for the governance of the security sector.
- Strengthening the institutional capacity for the delivery of security services.
- Providing avenues to ensure that justice is available and accessible to all.
- Strengthening the institutional capacity of the justice system.
- Improving access to legal services.
- Wider participation of the civil society in decision-making and governance.

SDG 17: SVG's Progress

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development



Implementing the SDGs in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines requires the Government working in tandem with the private sector and civil society to accomplish the vision of “improving the quality of life” for Vincentians, as set out in the National Economic and Social Development Plan. It also requires collaboration with other countries and international development partners to engage in South-South and North-South collaboration, including financial support, knowledge sharing and capacity development. This is even more critical as governments struggle to address the social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development focuses on national, regional and international systems related to finance, technology, trade and capacity-building underpinned by the cross-cutting issues of policy and institutional coherence as well as data, monitoring and accountability.

For CARICOM countries, regional integration is critical in responding to exogenous shocks, the effects of which are amplified on small and vulnerable island states such as Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. It is also a means to bolster bargaining power in trade negotiation. The CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) is the main platform for addressing the challenges of globalisation by creating the framework for increased competitiveness of goods and services. By removing barriers to trade in goods and services and opening up new opportunities for CARICOM nationals, the CSME can stimulate growth and add to the potential for international competitiveness of CARICOM member States. This is necessary since the present global economic climate and trading regimes demand that Caribbean countries become more competitive in all their activities. The CSME and the OECS Economic Union thus facilitate greater integration of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and other Caribbean economies into the global economy.

Financial resources for the country's development are derived from a range of sources. As stated in the Government's Budget Speech 2020, financing for the capital budget will be provided from a mixture of external loans, local loans, grants, capital revenue and other receipts. External loans are expected to total \$165.3 million, including \$139.7 million from multilateral creditors such as the Caribbean Development Bank, the International Development Association, the OPEC Fund for International Development, Climate Investment Fund and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development. Drawdowns on bilateral loans are expected from the Government of Taiwan and the Government of Kuwait.

International development partners continue to provide financing for investment projects in areas such as climate change, renewable energy, infrastructure development and information and

communication technology (ICT), among many others. Grants totalling \$60.7 million are expected to come from donors including the European Union, the Caribbean Development Bank, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the United Nations System and the Green Climate Fund as well as the governments of Taiwan, Italy, India, Japan, the UK Department for International Development, the UK Caribbean Infrastructure Fund and UAE-MASDAR. Domestic sources of revenue include fees for services such as passports, fishing licences, certificates of safety and seafarers' certificates and health services.

Remittances remain an important source of income for Vincentians. According to data from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Vincentian diaspora includes 60,655 citizens who now live abroad and in 2018 their remittances were in excess of 5 percent of GDP.

In 2019, the Government made a series of measures to institutionalize the policy of fiscal prudence, including the publication of the first-ever Fiscal Responsibility Framework, and a series of regulations to govern public procurement, the monitoring and oversight of statutory bodies and the administration of the national Contingency Fund. The Fiscal Responsibility Framework is aimed at promoting sustainable and inclusive growth, controlling fiscal deficits, limiting debt accumulation and improving fiscal transparency and accountability. The Framework seeks to facilitate the attainment of a debt to GDP ratio of 60 percent by the year 2030.

As at December 31 2019, the total public debt stood at \$1.7 billion with the total domestic debt, of \$0.5 billion (30 percent) and external debt \$1.2 billion (70 percent). Total debt service for 2020 is estimated at \$267.9 million or 39.4 percent of the Current Revenue.

The development of ICT infrastructure is a prerequisite to growth in investment, commerce and education and deploying solutions that promise to address many of the challenges of smallness, "multi-islandness" and inefficiency. According to data from the International Telecommunications Union, in 2018, 22.4 percent of Vincentians had access to the internet, increasing from 17.1 percent in 2015.

Recent ICT investments have targeted improving communications infrastructure and cybersecurity and enhancing the efficiency of government offices. As described above, CARCIP included the installation of an extensive high-speed fibre-optic broadband backbone that encircles mainland Saint Vincent and runs undersea through the Grenadines and down to Grenada. This is accompanied by the necessary capacity development of programmers, systems administrators, technicians and help desk personnel.

In addition, the "Digital Transformation Project", will strengthen e-Government and will encompass digital identification, payment platforms, land registration and administration, and the ability to access an array of services such as paying taxes and renewing passports and drivers' licences through a single e-Government platform. The project will also continue CARCIP's investment in digital skills training and entrepreneurship. Over the last three years, more than 700

people have received this training through the National Centre for Technological Innovation (NCTI).

It is universally agreed that data collection, management and access are vital to long-term planning for sustainable development. ECLAC is providing assistance to Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to design and implement an institutional mechanism for mainstreaming the SDGs. This technical assistance includes addressing the institutional and capacity needs of the country’s National Statistical System (NSS) to produce data to support evidence-based policy planning, including data for the SDG indicators. Initial analysis revealed the absence of a coordinated framework for compiling official statistics resulting in the Central Statistical Office (CSO) having limited access to other useful databases compiled by other departments of the Government. Administrative records across the public sector could be better harnessed but government departments and agencies must be willing and able to share data. In addition to ECLAC’s intervention, the Project for Regional Advancement for Statistics in the Caribbean (PRASC) is assisting with the development and updating of the CSO’s website.

Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress

Table 24 Goal 17 Indicator and Progress

SDG Target	SVG Progress
Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.	

- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- No trend data available
- Limited or no progress
- Insufficient data/not applicable


Strategies and Actions Needed to Achieve Goal 17



- Establish a national coordinating mechanism that would manage the various responsibilities of SDG planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting in the country.
- Conduct a gap analysis of the country’s capacity to collect data to inform a strategy for the collection and strategic use of the country’s data.

Dashboard of SDG Targets and Progress for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



Using the key below we have sought to undertake a rough measurement or mapping of the country's progress across all goals – in other words to provide a snapshot of where we are:


- Target met or likely to be met by 2030/substantial progress
- Fair progress but acceleration is needed
- Limited or no progress
- Moving away from the target/deterioration
- No trend data available
- Insufficient data/not applicable



SDG Goals	Targets				
<p>SDG 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p> 	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.				
	By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions.				
	Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all.				
	By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services				
	By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.				
SDG 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and	By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.				

SDG Goals	Targets				
<p>improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p> 	<p>By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons.</p>	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red
	<p>By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers.</p>	White	Yellow	White	White
	<p>By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.</p>	White	Yellow	White	White
	<p>By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels.</p>	White	White	Orange	White
<p>SDG 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</p> 	<p>By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.</p>	Green	White	White	White
	<p>By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.</p>	Green	White	White	White
	<p>By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.</p>	Green	White	White	White



SDG Goals	Targets	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red
	By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being.		Yellow		
	Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.		Yellow		
	By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.				
	By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.		Yellow		
	Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.		Yellow		
	By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.				
SDG 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	Green			
	By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.	Green			
	By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university.		Yellow		



SDG Goals	Targets				
	By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.				
	By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.				
	By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy.				
	By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.				
	Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.				
SDG 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls 	End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere				
	Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.				
	Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.				


SDG Goals	Targets				
	Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red
	Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.	White	Yellow	White	White
	Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.	White	Yellow	White	White
	Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.	White	Yellow	White	White
SDG 6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all 	By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.	Green	White	White	White
	By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.	Green	White	White	White
	By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.	White	Yellow	White	White
	By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.	White	White	Orange	White


SDG Goals	Targets				
	By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.				
	By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes.				
	Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.				
SDG 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all 	By 2030, ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.				
	By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.				
	By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency.				
SDG 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all 	Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 percent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries.				
	Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labour-intensive sectors.				
	Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.				



SDG Goals	Targets				
	Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead.				
	By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value.				
	By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training.				
	Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.				
	By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.				
	Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.				
SDG 9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.				
	Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in least developed countries.				

SDG Goals	Targets				
	Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.				
	By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities.				
	Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries, including, by 2030, encouraging innovation and substantially increasing the number of research and development workers per 1 million people and public and private research and development spending.				
SDG 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries 	By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average.				
	By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.				
	Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.				
	Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.				
SDG 11 - Make cities and human settlements	By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.				

SDG Goals	Targets				
<p data-bbox="216 302 552 370">inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p> 	<p data-bbox="621 302 1524 488">By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.</p>				
	<p data-bbox="621 500 1549 602">By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries.</p>				
	<p data-bbox="621 617 1493 686">Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world’s cultural and natural heritage.</p>				
	<p data-bbox="621 722 1535 902">By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.</p>				
	<p data-bbox="621 917 1528 1019">By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management.</p>				
	<p data-bbox="621 1036 1549 1138">By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities.</p>				
<p data-bbox="216 1153 573 1263">SDG 12 - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p> 	<p data-bbox="621 1153 1528 1295">Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries.</p>				
	<p data-bbox="621 1308 1472 1377">By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.</p>				

SDG Goals	Targets	Green	Yellow	Orange	Red
	By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.			Orange	
	By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling and reuse.		Yellow		
	Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle.			Orange	
	Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.		Yellow		
	By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.			Orange	
SDG 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts 	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.		Yellow		
	Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning.		Yellow		
	Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.		Yellow		
SDG 14 - Take urgent action to combat climate	By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.		Yellow		

SDG Goals	Targets				
<p>change and its impacts Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p> 	<p>By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.</p>				
	<p>By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.</p>				
	<p>By 2020, conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.</p>				
	<p>By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.</p>				
	<p>By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.</p>				
<p>SDG 15 - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial</p>	<p>By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.</p>				

SDG Goals	Targets				
ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss 	By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.				
	By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.				
	Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.				
	By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.				
SDG 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels 	Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.				
	End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.				
	Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.				
	By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.				
	Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms.				
	Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.				

SDG Goals	Targets				
	Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.				
	By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.				
	Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.				
<p>SDG 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development</p> 	Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection.				

Means of Implementation

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change outline a new development agenda, which implies a profound transformation of the sustainable development model and the mobilisation of both internal and external resources, together with a change in the manner in which development is pursued and focusing on a more integrated approach to development.

In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as with other SIDS, limited fiscal space, low levels of technical capacity as well as climate change present challenges to achieving the 2030 Agenda. Notably, the country already, has in place a development plan which is aligned to Agenda 2030 and which is the conduit through which the country will localize the global agenda. This implementation of the development plan and the achievement of the outcomes contained thereon necessitates that there be comprehensive and sustained reforms in the areas of public financial management and in the public sector generally as a means of safeguarding investments, reducing risks and impediments to the promulgation of policy and implementation of programmes in an efficient manner. The Government also has to create an enabling environment to increase private sector involvement and investment in the development pathway while at the same time complementing fiscal efforts and reforms that are necessary to generate high and sustained economic growth.

With respect to development financing, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing has brought about changes that will enhance the landscape as it relates to financing for development with new partners and financing sources gaining importance, including donors which are not members of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), non-governmental organisations, climate funds, the private sector and foundations, innovative financing mechanisms such as innovative financing tools – blue and green bonds, and South-South cooperation initiatives. Private capital has also become an important source of financing, through a diversified range of instruments including shares, bonds, debt securities, concessional loans and risk hedging instruments (including guarantees), as well as workers' remittances and voluntary private contributions (ECLAC, 2017a).

Based on the foregoing, the successful implementation of the national development plan and consequently the advancement of the SDGs in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines will require the following:

- Adequate and sustained financing.
- The establishment of the required governance framework and coordinating mechanisms and committees within the country to support the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the development plan and the SDGs. These of course must be underpinned by stakeholder engagement and participation that would also include civil society

organisations, youth and the private sector all geared towards higher levels and more sustained ownership of the SDGs.

- Enhancing the statistical capacity in the country as well as building the capacity of the country's statistical office and ensuring that the current ranking of 56.67 in terms of statistical capacity can be improved considerably in the coming years. Building national data and statistical capacity, is critical for monitoring of the SDGs Indicators as well as the indicators contained in the national development plan.
- Institutionalization and mainstreaming of processes to align the agenda with the development plan and the strategic and operational plans and budgets of government entities; country development plans of international development partners; and the work of the private sector and civil society organizations. This will necessitate to some extent, capacity building - both technical and human resources, including building national capacity for aligning the SDGs and respective targets with national and local level development processes. There will also be need a to build national capacity for achieving policy coherence in advancing integrated sustainable and inclusive development.
- Integration of the three pillars of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental - across all policy areas in the development of new policies will be critical ensuring that there is equal treatment and consideration of each pillar in all key areas of national development. This also will involve policy integration and coherence and infusion of the goals and targets into national policy development as well as sectoral and government policies.
- Regular and timely reporting of performance and progress of Agenda 2030.
- Technology and knowledge transfer and greater levels of South-South cooperation.

SDG Indicators and Data Sources

SDG 01:

Indicators	Unit of Measurement	Latest Reference		Previous Period		Data Source
		Year	Data	Year	Data	
Proportion of population living below the national poverty line by sex	Percentage	2018	N/A	2008	Men: 31.1 Women: 29.5 All SVG: 30.2	Survey of Living Conditions
Number of deaths, missing persons, and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 population	Rate	2018	Deaths: 0.0 Missing persons: 0.0 Persons affected by disaster: 0.0	2016	Deaths: 1.8 Missing persons: 0.9 Persons affected by disaster: 617.2	National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO)
Direct Disaster Economic Loss in relation to Gross Domestic Product	EC\$	2016	EC\$ 101.565 million	2014	EC\$300,000	National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO)
Country has a disaster and risk reduction strategy	National emergency and disaster management plan/act (2006) National volcano emergency plan (2014) National comprehensive disaster management policy (2014)					National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) http://nemo.gov.vc/nemo/index.php/plans-policies/bills-and-acts

Source: Statistical Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

SDG 03: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

Indicators	Unit of Measurement	Latest Reference		Previous Period		Data Source
		Year	Data	Year	Data	
3.1.1 Maternal Mortality Rate per 100,000 live births	Rate	2017	130.0	2015	0.0	Registry Department/Ministry of health Mortality Records
Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Percentage	2018	98.6	2016	98.6	Ministry of Health - Health Information Unit http://stats.gov.vc/stats/?page_id=240
3.2.1 Under-five mortality rate by age and sex (rate 5 per 1,000 live births)	Rate	2016	Boys: 15.2 Girls: 16.1 Total: 15.6	2015	Boys: 19.6 Girls: 14.5 Total: 17.1	Registry Department/Ministry of health Mortality Records
3.2.2 Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	Rate	2016	Boys: 12.8 Girls: 16.1 Total: 14.5	2015	Boys: 17.4 Girls: 11.3 Total: 14.3	Registry Department/Ministry of health Mortality Records
3.7.2: Adolescent birth rate (10-14; 15-19) per 1,000 women in that age group	Rate	2017	10-14: 02 15-19: 49	2015	10-14: 01 15-19: 55	Statistical Office on the basis of data collected from Registry Department

SDG 04: Ensure Inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong opportunities for all

Indicators	Unit of Measurement	Latest Reference Period		Previous Reference Period		Data Source
		Year	Data	Year	Data	
4.1.1 Proportion of children and young people (a) in Grade 2 or 3; (b) at the end of primary education; and (c) at the end of lower secondary education achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex	Percentage	2018	Grade 2- Math Boys:53.6 Girls: 65.9 Grade 2- Language Arts Boys:53.3 Girls: 71.7	2017	Grade 2- Math Boys:48.6 Girls: 63.5 Grade 2- Language Arts Boys:57.9 Girls: 75.0	Ministry of Education
4.2.2 Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), by sex	Percentage	2018	Boys:73.9 Girls:76.3	2017	Boys:88.8 Girls:88.4	Ministry of Education
4.b.1 Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study	EC\$	2019	\$483,734.23	2018	\$455,744.00	Services Commission Department
4.c.1 Proportion of teachers in: (a) pre-primary education; (b) primary education; (c) lower secondary education; and (d) upper secondary education who have received at least the minimum organized teacher training required for teaching at the relevant level in a given country, by sex	Percentage	2018	Primary Education Men:69.8 Women: 86.6 Secondary Education Men:54.7 Women: 60.2	2017	Primary Education Men:77.2 Women: 88.6 Secondary Education Men:56.6 Women: 63.5	Ministry of Education

Source: Statistical Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

SDG 05: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Indicators	Unit of Measurement	Latest Reference		Previous Period		Data Source
		Year	Data	Year	Data	
Proportion of inactive population with reasons such as household duties and family responsibilities for not seeking work (<i>a proxy for persons who forgo paid employment for unpaid care work</i>)	Percentage	2017	Household duties: 4.1 Family responsibilities: 9.8	2015	Household duties: 4.0 Family responsibilities: 8.9	Labour Force Survey
5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments	Percentage	2018	13.0	2016	17.4	Electoral Office of SVG
5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions	Percentage	2017	47.7	2015	45.5	Labour Force Survey

Source: Statistical Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

SDG 06: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Indicators	Unit of Measurement	Latest Reference		Previous Period		Data Source
		Year	Data	Year	Data	
6.1.1 Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services	Percentage	2018	Rural Saint Vincent: 90.6 Urban Saint Vincent: 96.2 Grenadines: 97.3 Total SVG: 93.8	2015	Rural Saint Vincent: 97.2 Urban Saint Vincent: 97.3 Grenadines: 58.8 Total SVG: 93.6	Survey of Living Conditions, Labour Force Survey
6.2.1 Proportion of population using managed sanitation services, including a hand washing facility with soap and water	Percentage	2018	Rural Saint Vincent: 83.5 Urban Saint Vincent: 92.5 Grenadines: 83.0 Total SVG: 87.6	2017	Rural Saint Vincent: 87.3 Urban Saint Vincent: 99.9 Grenadines: 97.3 Total SVG: 93.8	Survey of Living Conditions, Labour Force Survey

Source: Statistical Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

SDG 07: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Indicators	Unit of Measurement	Latest Reference		Previous Period		Data Source
		Year	Data	Year	Data	
7.1.1 Proportion of population with access to electricity	Percentage	2018	Rural Saint Vincent: 93.4 Urban Saint Vincent: 93.9 The Grenadines: 93.6 All of SVG: 93.6	2015	Rural Saint Vincent: 90.9 Urban Saint Vincent: 92.3 The Grenadines: 88.5 All of SVG: 91.4	Survey of Living Conditions, Labour Force Survey

Source: Statistical Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

SDG 08: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Indicators	Unit of Measurement	Latest Reference		Previous Period		Data Source
		Year	Data	Year	Data	
8.1.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	Rate	2018(p)	2.2	2017	1.0	Statistical Office
8.2.1 Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person	Rate	2017	30.7	2015	32.5	Statistical Office
8.5.2 Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	Rate	2017	Sex Men: 21.5 Women: 30.1	2015	Sex Men: 20.7 Women: 30.6	Statistical Office
8.9.1 Tourism direct GDP as a proportion of total GDP and in growth rate	Percentage	2018(p)	2.21	2017	2.09	Statistical Office
8.9.2 Proportion of jobs in sustainable tourism industries out of total tourism jobs	Percentage	2017	11.1	2015	11.2	Statistical Office
8.1.0 Number of commercial bank branches and ATMs per 100,000 adults	Count	2019	Commercial Banks: 14.4 ATM's: 38.4	2018	Commercial Bank: 14.4 ATM's: 38.4	Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) and the Statistical Office

Source: Statistical Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

SDG 09: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Indicators	Unit of Measurement	Latest Reference		Previous Period		Data Source
		Year	Data	Year	Data	
9.2.1 Manufacturing Value added as proportion of GDP and per capita	Percentage	2018	4.4	2017	4.2	Statistical Office
9.2.2 Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment	Percentage	2017	5.4	2015	6.6	Statistical Office

Source: Statistical Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Indicators	Unit of Measurement	Latest Reference		Previous Period		Data Source
		Year	Data	Year	Data	
13.1.1 Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies. (repeat of 1.5.3 and 11.b.2)		This is a regional indicator				<p>A draft disaster management policy is found online at: https://bit.ly/35iCYvB</p> <p>A Disaster Risk Reduction Document is available at: http://dipecholac.net/docs/files/789-cd-svg.pdf</p>
13.1.2 Number of deaths, missing people, injured, relocated or evacuated due to disasters per 100,000 people. (repeat of 1.5.1 and 11.5.1)	Rate - per 100,000 population	2018	<p>Deaths: 0.0 Missing People: 0.0 Injured Persons: 0.0 Displaced Population: 0.0 Sought Shelter: 0.0 <i>No Natural Hazard since 2016*</i></p>	2016	<p>Deaths: 1.8 Missing People: 0.9 Injured Persons: 1.8 Displaced Population: 19.0 Sought Shelter: 598.1</p>	National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO)

Source: Statistical Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Indicators	Unit of Measurement	Latest Reference		Previous Period		Data Source
		Year	Data	Year	Data	
14.5.1 Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas	Percentage	2018	Marine Area (EEZ): 27,533 Km² Marine Area Under Protection: 95.5 km² Protected Area in Relation to Marine Area: 0.35	2011	Marine Area (EEZ): 27,533 Km² Marine Area Under Protection: 95.5 Km² Protected Area in Relation to Marine Area: 0.35	National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority

Source: Statistical Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

Indicators	Unit of Measurement	Latest Reference		Previous Period		Data Source
		Year	Data	Year	Data	
15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area	Percent	2011	77.8	2005	73.4	National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority & Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas by ecosystem type	Percent	2005	26.3	2005	26.3	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
15.5.1 Red list index	Red list of threatened species Chironius vincenti – Saint Vincent Black Snake Amazona Guildingii – Saint Vincent Amazon Parrot Tangara Versicolor – Saint Vincent Tanager Gonatodes Daudini – Union Island Gecko				IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (https://www.iucnredlist.org/) (A red list index is not available for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)	

Source: Statistical Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Indicators	Unit of Measurement	Latest Reference		Previous Period		Data Source
		Year	Data	Year	Data	
16.1.1 Number of Victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by age and sex	Rate per 100,00 population	2018	30.9	2017	36.4	Royal Saint Vincent & the Grenadines Police Force (RSVGPF)
16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the are they live	Percentage	2018	85.8	N/A	N/A	Survey of Living Conditions
16.5.1 Proportion of person who had at least one contact with a public official, who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by theses public officials, in the previous 12 months	Percentage	2018	0.92	N/A	N/A	Survey of Living Conditions

Source: Statistical Office of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Acronyms and Abbreviations

5Ps	People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership
ACTP	Association for the Conservation of Threatened Parrots
AWE	At the Water's Edge
BOP	Balance of Payments
CARCIP	Caribbean Regional Communications Infrastructure Programme
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
Cat DDO	Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option
CCAP	Climate Change Adaptation Program
CCI	Clinton Climate Initiative
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Center for Climate Change
CCRIF SPC	formerly the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbon
CNCD	Chronic Non-communicable Disease
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPCCA	Coastal Protection for Climate Change Adaptation for Small Island States in the Caribbean
CPI	Corruption Perception Index
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy
CSO	Central Statistical Office
CWSA	Central Water and Sewerage Authority
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
EC	Eastern Caribbean
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
eCPA	enhanced Country Poverty Assessment
ECMMAN	Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network
ECPCGC	Eastern Caribbean Partial Credit Guarantee Corporation
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EFA	Education for All
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EPI	Environmental Performance Index
FEWER	Fisheries Early Warning and Emergency Response
GAD	Gender Affairs Division
GBV	gender-based violence
GCCA	Global Climate Change Alliance
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environment Facility

GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GNI	Gross National Income
gpd	gallons per day
HDR	Human Development Report
HFC	Hydrofluorocarbon
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IMF	International Monetary Fund
J-CCCP	Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership
KAP	Knowledge, Attitude and Practice
KfW	German Development Bank
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MMA	Marine Managed Area
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
mgd	million imperial gallons per day
NAMA	Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NCTI	National Centre for Technological Innovation
NDMP	National Disaster Management Programme
NEAP	National Energy Action Plan
NEMO	National Emergency Management Organisation
NEP	National Energy Policy
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NOP	National Ocean Policy
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxides
PRASC	Project for Regional Advancement for Statistics in the Caribbean
NSS	National Statistical System
OAS	Organization of American States
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OFID	OPEC Fund for International Development
PAVE	Pedestrian Access for Village Enhancement
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutant
PPCR	Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PRYME	Promoting Youth Micro Enterprises
RCF	Rapid Credit Facility
RDVRP	Regional Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Project
RIA	Rapid Integrated Assessment
RMI	Rocky Mountain Institute
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SFP	School Feeding Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing State/s
SO	Statistical Office

SO ₂	Sulphur dioxide
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
SusGren	Sustainable Grenadines Inc.
SVG	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
SVGCF	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Conservation Fund
TRIPS	Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
UKCIF	United Kingdom Caribbean Infrastructure Partnership Fund
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VINLEC	Saint Vincent Electricity Service Limited
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WHS	World Heritage Site
ZHTF	Zero Hunger Trust Fund