



2019 Voluntary National Review (VNR): Tonga Experience

Session 5: Capacity building workshop – Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the Pacific.

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Outline of Presentation

- Methodology
- Creating Ownership
- Challenges
- Implementation
- Key Messages



“We remained true to the intent of the VNR process, to be country driven which allowed us to better assess our own progress, understand our challenges and better prepare for the future.”

Source: Kingdom of Tonga 2019 VNR

METHODOLOGY



- A country-led initiative where various national stakeholders took ownership to draft Tonga's VNR report
- Dedicated and inclusive consultation and drafting workshops were convened between March and May 2019
- a week of stakeholder involvement and collaboration helped draft the VNR key messages, with the technical support provided by UNESCAP and UNDP.
- A similar approach was used for the drafting of Tonga's final report, where:
 - a few weeks of extensive and inclusive report drafting was facilitated by the Prime Minister's Office
 - with specific technical assistance provided by UNESCAP and UNDESA,
 - a drafting retreat was called where teams of sectoral stakeholders including CSOs prepared sections of Tonga's VNR report.



Creating Ownership

Box 1: Government and CSOs engagement

Government actively engages civil society organizations in Tonga through programs, projects, collective decision-making by way of public dialogue, consultation meetings, awareness raising programs, capacity building workshops, partnership and Government's National Steering Committees and National Advisory Committees for various Government Ministries.

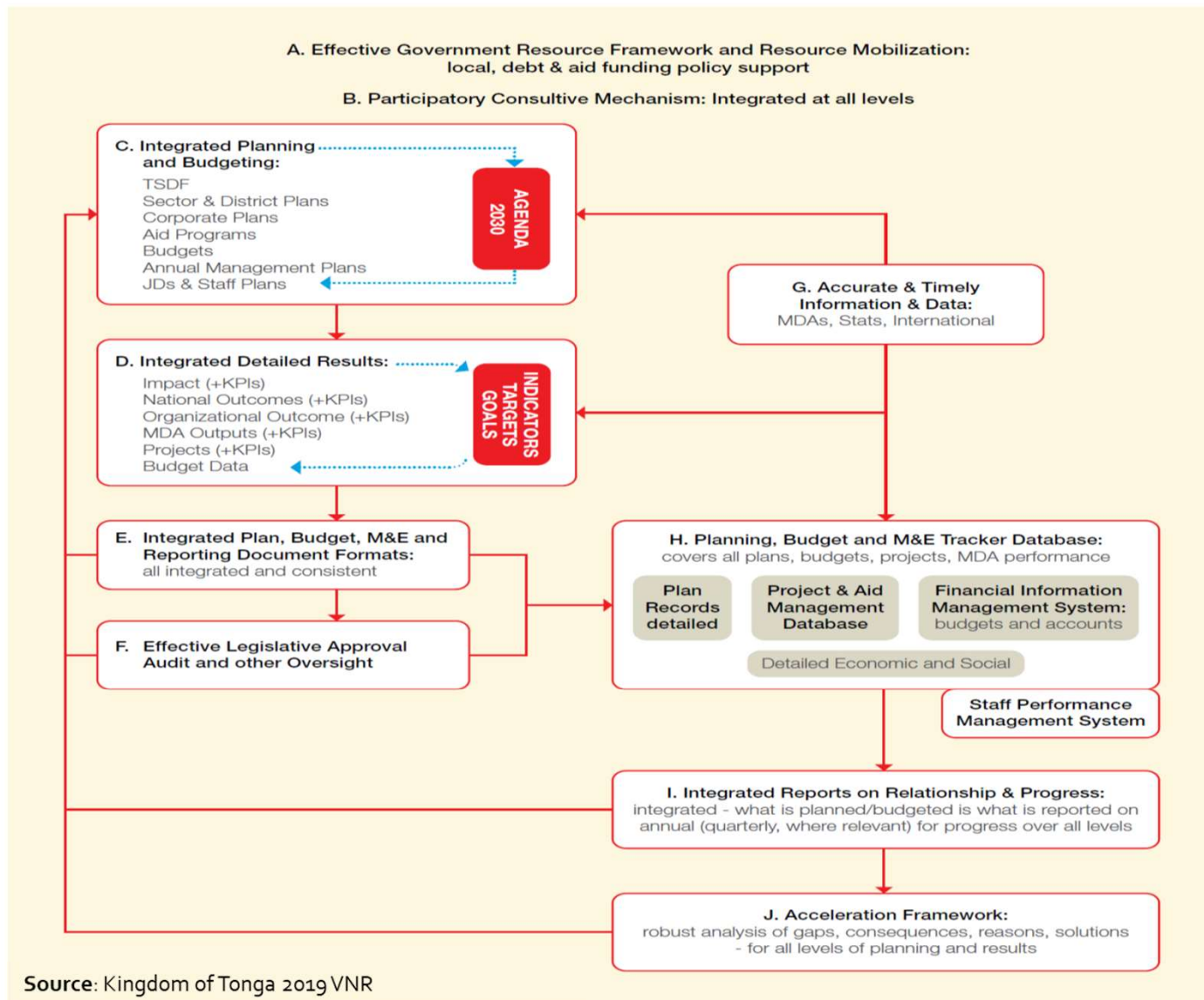
Source: Kingdom of Tonga 2019 VNR

- A number of consultative processes on national planning and SDGs took place since the adoption of the 2030 Development Agenda, and when the TSDF II, for the period 2015-2025 was being developed.
- Co-producing of the 2019 VNR started with open dialogues between government ministries and CSOs.

Challenges



- Limited staff capacity and resources
- Need to strengthen collaboration across and within Government line ministries
- Having effective coordination
- Geographical diversity and remoteness
- Measurability of key indicators remain a challenge



Key Messages



- Tonga has prioritized social protection and human rights with a focus on vulnerable groups
- Tonga continues to honour its commitment to Universal Health Coverage - striving for nationwide coverage and access to quality healthcare services.
- Regulations are in place to make early childhood education inclusive for children with disabilities and children from other vulnerable groups.
- Tonga will continue to enhance accessibility to sustainable and energy efficiency services.
- To strengthen sustainable economic growth through use of relevant trade tools and employment opportunities for our people through structural reforms and further develop productive sectors.
- Tonga recognizes the need for equal opportunities for all, in particular vulnerable and marginalized groups including access to employment, political leadership and social services.
- Climate Change continues to pose serious threats to the environment and livelihood of the people of Tonga.
- Tonga remains committed to support the implementation of our development agenda through genuine and durable partnerships with development partners, donors and local stakeholders; recognizing national priorities and systems are critical.



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