

HYBRID SURVEY

“The information collected in the 2012 Pacific Living Conditions Survey (Hybrid Survey) achieves 8 of the 12 National Minimum Development Indicators (NMDI) for culture.”

Culture (**Kalja**) provides the foundation for sustainable social and economic development in Vanuatu. A key aim of gathering cultural statistics in the Pacific Living Conditions survey in Vanuatu is to assist policy makers in gauging levels of economic dependency for improved poverty analysis. There is a positive correlation in Vanuatu between subjective reports of well-being and free access to land and natural resources (customary usage rights). This access, coupled with traditional skills enabling productive use of natural resources, provides a unique indicator of poverty risk that policy makers can use to balance information coming from cash and traditional economies. That is, people who have little

economic opportunity in the cash economy can be considered as lower risk in a poverty analysis if they have both access to traditional land and natural resources and the skills to make productive use of those assets.

This survey module was developed as an optional add-on to standard household surveys, to enable countries to compile cultural statistics that would provide valuable information on aspects of cultural practice, as well as contextual information for informed social and economic policy analysis. This information is particularly pertinent in societies that embrace their culture and traditions as a valuable heritage.

## INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SKILLS & USE

### LINK TO NMDI:

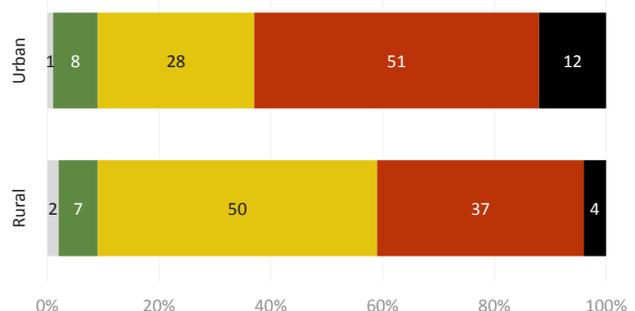
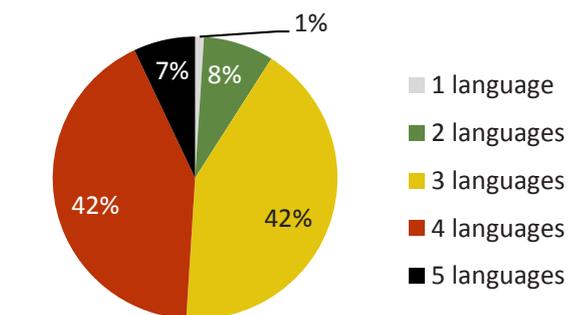
“94% of Ni-Vanuatu (15 yrs and older) can speak at least one of the estimated 110 indigenous languages — these languages are used more regularly by a greater proportion of the population than any of the three official national languages. Perceived ability to read and write in at least one indigenous language is also higher than for the two formalized languages taught in schools among the rural population and adults in urban centres. A greater proportion of Ni-Vanuatu, however, is literate in Bislama, the most widely understood of the three official national languages and the only official language not formally taught in schools.”

### ‘LANWIS’

referring to any one of the estimated 110 distinct indigenous languages spoken throughout the archipelago, is the primary mechanism for transmitting cultural knowledge from one generation to the next. Measures of indigenous language use form a predictive indicator of traditional knowledge trends – if the ability to speak and frequency of speaking in one’s indigenous language decreases, a decrease in traditional knowledge is likely among the next generation. Previous survey work in Vanuatu has chosen to emphasise literacy rates and the ability to speak in the three official national languages of English, French, and Bislama, with little or no information available about indigenous language use and competence.

The vast majority of Ni-Vanuatu are multi-lingual when indigenous languages are factored in. Nearly half (49%) of the population speak at least four languages. A higher proportion (63%) of the urban population is able to speak at least four languages, due largely to the greater degree of linguistic diversity in urban centres (Chart 1).

Chart 1: Number of languages spoken



Perceived ability to speak Bislama – the only language considered to be nearly universally understood throughout Vanuatu – is highest among the four language categories studied, with 97% reportedly able to speak it. Bislama is followed closely by indigenous languages, with perceived capability in speaking English and French dropping dramatically thereafter. A greater proportion of youth than of adults are able to speak English and French in both urban and rural areas and the opposite is true for indigenous languages and Bislama (Table 1).

Perceived literacy, which looks at an individual's assessments of their ability to read and write in a language, is highest for Bislama and indigenous languages, although neither Bislama nor any of the several indigenous languages are formalised or taught in schools and few resources are devoted to their formalisation. The proportion of the population perceived as literate in the two official languages taught in schools in Vanuatu – English and French – is much lower (Table 2).

The higher levels of perceived literacy for non-formalised languages compared to English and French in Vanuatu can be attributed to the frequency of use of various languages. The proportion of the population speaking English or French on a daily basis is below 10% nationally, with very few adults in rural areas reporting daily use of the two languages taught in schools. Bislama is the main language spoken in urban areas where language groups mix, whereas indigenous languages are dominant in rural areas where language families are situated geographically (Table 3).



**Table 1: Perceived ability to speak languages**

	Indigenous	Bislama	English	French
<b>Urban</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>39%</b>
Youth (15-24)	79%	96%	67%	40%
Adults (>24)	93%	98%	63%	38%
<b>Rural</b>	<b>98%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>26%</b>
Youth (15-24)	95%	96%	60%	35%
Adults (>24)	99%	97%	46%	23%
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>94%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>31%</b>

**Table 2: Perceived literacy rates**

	Indigenous	Bislama	English	French
<b>Urban</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Men</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>25%</b>
Youth (15-24)	61%	91%	67%	22%
Adult (>24)	75%	94%	70%	27%
<b>Women</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>28%</b>
Youth (15-24)	60%	94%	78%	33%
Adult (>24)	70%	92%	65%	26%
<b>Rural</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Men</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>20%</b>
Youth (15-24)	51%	86%	47%	28%
Adult (>24)	61%	80%	39%	18%
<b>Women</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>18%</b>
Youth (15-24)	57%	87%	58%	24%
Adult (>24)	54%	71%	33%	17%
<b>National average</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>22%</b>
Urban average	69%	93%	69%	27%
Rural average	56%	78%	40%	19%
Men average	63%	86%	52%	22%
Women average	59%	82%	50%	22%
Youth (15-24) average	56%	89%	61%	27%
Urban Youth	60%	93%	73%	28%
Rural Youth	54%	86%	53%	26%
Adult (>24) average	63%	82%	47%	20%
Urban adult	73%	93%	68%	26%
Rural adult	57%	76%	36%	17%

**Table 3: Proportion of population reporting daily use of languages**

	Indigenous	Bislama	English	French
<b>Urban</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>81%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>6%</b>
Youth (15-24)	48%	82%	10%	8%
Adults (>24)	53%	80%	10%	6%
<b>Rural</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>3%</b>
Youth (15-24)	89%	33%	7%	4%
Adults (>24)	84%	34%	2%	2%
<b>National</b>	<b>72%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4%</b>

# TRADITIONAL PRODUCTION SKILLS AND USE

*A majority of households in rural areas possess basic production skills that alleviate dependency on cash for basic necessities. A closer look at the prevalence of traditional fishing methods revealed 56% of Ni-Vanuatu use canoes for fishing and 37% are skilled in traditional spear fishing.”*

The proportion of the population able to produce assets or make other productive use of accessible and available natural resources is an indicator of traditional knowledge and productivity. The Hybrid Survey looked

at 12 common traditional production skills ranging from weaving skills to traditional fishing methods. Table 4 shows that many of these skills are gender specific. Mat weaving is a skill held primarily by women, as opposed to spear fishing, indicating the importance of larger households with diversified skill sets. By selecting five of the most basic traditional production skills from this set, which are essential to sustaining livelihoods in rural areas (house roof and wall construction; food crop growing; cooking; and producing traditional medicines), it is possible to create a composite indicator at the household level that can be tracked over time.

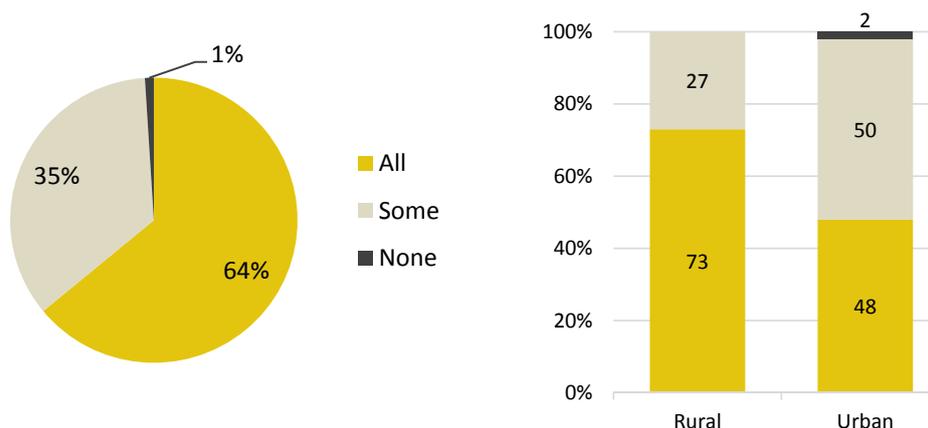
**Table 4: Proportion of population possessing selected common traditional production skills**

	WEAVE											
	Mat	Basket	Thatch roofing	Bamboo / Wild cane wall	Build canoe	Carve paddle	Fish with canoe	Spear-fish	Make bow & arrow	Plant food crops	Make laplap, tuluk	Produce medicines
<b>Urban</b>	29%	25%	44%	33%	18%	33%	54%	35%	34%	95%	89%	70%
<b>Men</b>	4%	4%	49%	47%	33%	53%	71%	60%	59%	97%	83%	72%
Youth (15-24)	3%	2%	31%	27%	17%	37%	60%	47%	43%	97%	76%	59%
Adult (>24)	5%	5%	57%	56%	40%	59%	76%	65%	66%	97%	87%	77%
<b>Women</b>	53%	46%	39%	18%	2%	13%	36%	9%	9%	93%	95%	67%
Youth (15-24)	26%	22%	25%	9%	3%	13%	36%	7%	7%	88%	93%	55%
Adult (>24)	64%	55%	45%	21%	2%	13%	36%	10%	9%	95%	96%	72%
<b>Rural</b>	45%	43%	78%	53%	19%	34%	57%	39%	41%	99%	91%	77%
<b>Men</b>	6%	9%	71%	72%	37%	60%	75%	68%	76%	99%	85%	81%
Youth (15-24)	2%	5%	50%	50%	21%	52%	71%	60%	69%	99%	77%	66%
Adult (>24)	8%	10%	79%	81%	42%	64%	77%	71%	78%	99%	88%	86%
<b>Women</b>	84%	78%	84%	33%	2%	7%	40%	10%	7%	98%	98%	74%
Youth (15-24)	70%	65%	68%	16%	0%	10%	39%	5%	5%	98%	97%	59%
Adult (>24)	89%	82%	89%	39%	2%	6%	40%	11%	8%	98%	98%	79%
<b>National average</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>74%</b>

In nearly two-thirds (64%) of households, all five basic traditional production skills are held between household members. A much larger proportion of households in rural areas possesses all five basic production skills, which can be attributed to the fact that these skills are necessary

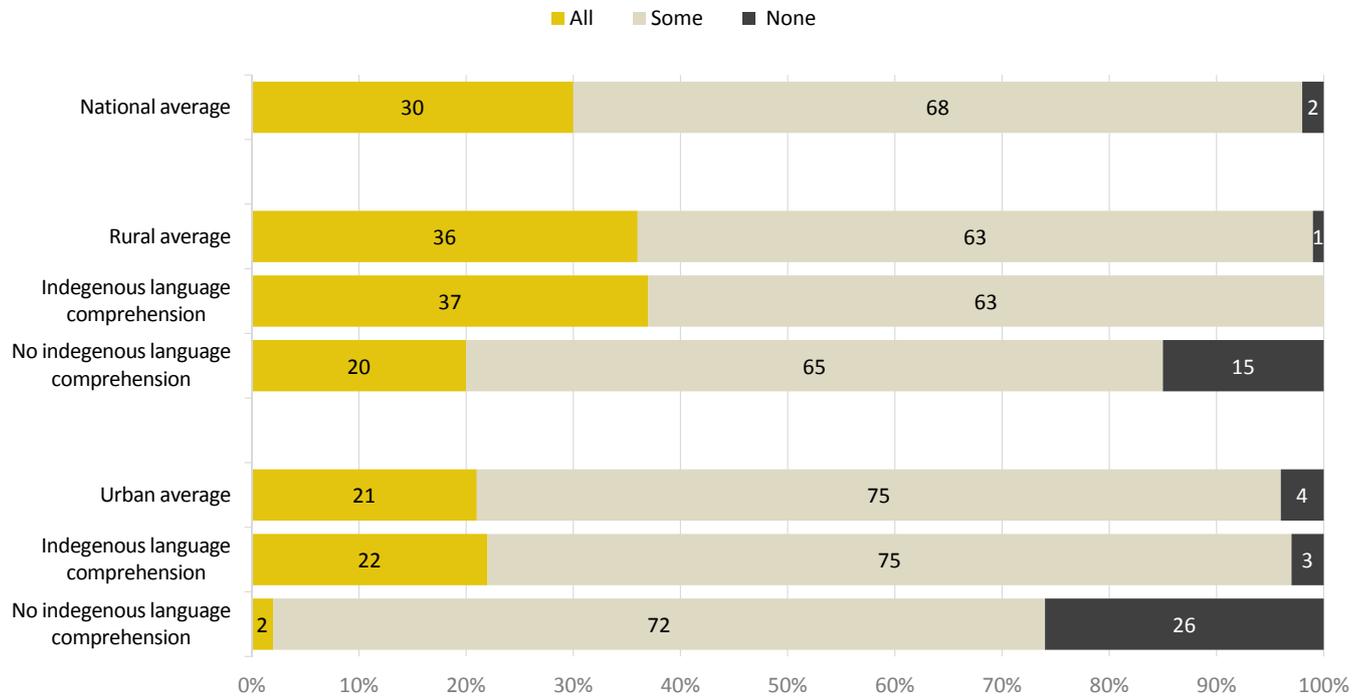
for livelihoods in rural areas (Chart 2). A household is considered at higher risk of poverty if it lacks these basic skills. Its members must then depend on money for housing, food and medicines for the family and the household is more vulnerable to external economic conditions.

**Chart 2: Proportion of households with 5 basic production skills**



The composite indicator of basic production skills is closely linked to indigenous language comprehension as the means through which traditional knowledge is passed on to future generations. When looking at production skills at the individual level, those individuals without an understanding of at least one spoken indigenous language are far less likely to possess basic production skills (Chart 3).

**Chart 3: Five basic production skills relative to individuals' comprehension of at least one indigenous language**

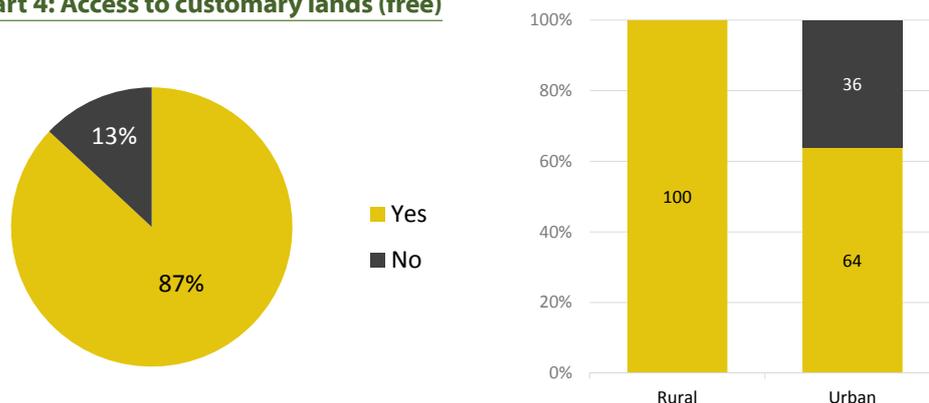


## ACCESS TO AND USE OF LAND, FOREST AND MARINE RESOURCES

All Ni-Vanuatu in rural areas, and a majority in urban areas as well, enjoy free access to customary land belonging to the immediate or extended family unit. Customary land is primarily used for growing food crops and for housing. Roughly 60% of those without free access to customary land choose to rent or lease land for purposes of food production and housing.

Statistics on possession of traditional production skills, including the 12 studied in this survey, are of no real policy significance without information on free access to customary land, forest and marine resources. Customary land provides the resources that traditional skills transform into useful assets. The Hybrid Survey found 100% access to customary land in rural areas and nearly two-thirds (64%) access in urban centers (Chart 4).

**Chart 4: Access to customary lands (free)**



Usage rights to customary land are granted through familial association for 99% of Ni-Vanuatu. Most familial access is through an individual's immediate family, although a significant proportion (19%) of women in rural areas relies on access to a spouse's family land. The remaining 1% of individuals with access to customary land have joined other landholders in a trust agreement (Table 5). This arrangement is most common in urban centres.

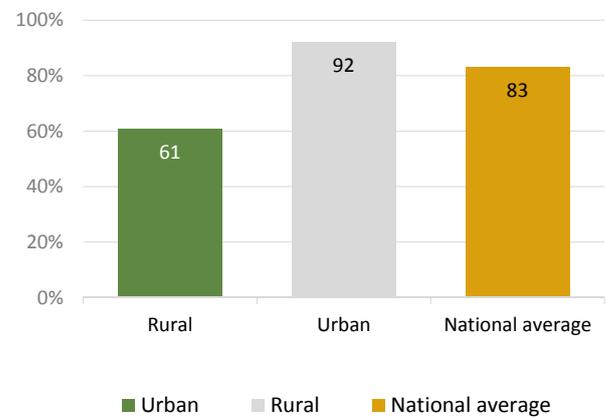
Customary land is utilised in several productive ways. The top three uses among rural Ni-Vanuatu include gardens for food crops (99%), space for tending livestock (93%), and housing (92%). This speaks volumes for the role of this land in food security and economic independence, and shows three of the five basic traditional production skills in use. Urban Ni-Vanuatu also use customary land primarily for growing food crops (90%), although a greater proportion of urban dwellers hold on to customary land for future use (79%) than currently use it for housing or tending livestock. A relatively small proportion of those with customary land use it for the purpose of collecting rents (Chart 5).

The highest level of agreement on use of land is for food crops and housing, with 92% of rural people with access to customary land using it for both purposes, compared with 61% of urban dwellers (Chart 6).

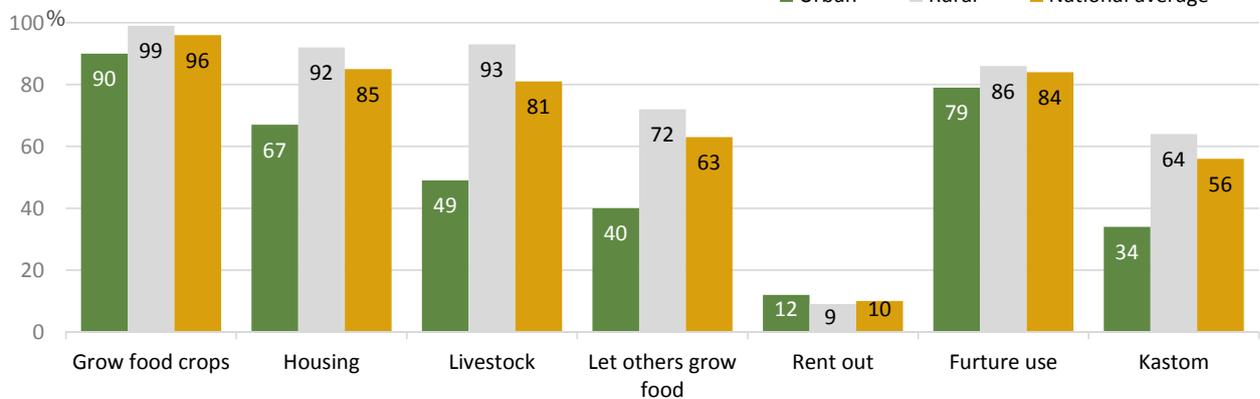
**Table 5: Accessible customary land – group to which it belongs**

	My family	Spouse's family	Other family	Trust company
<b>Urban</b>	69%	5%	21%	5%
Youth (15-24)	69%	5%	21%	5%
Adults (>24)	69%	6%	21%	5%
<b>Rural</b>	80%	11%	9%	0%
Youth (15-24)	88%	4%	8%	0%
Adults (>24)	72%	19%	9%	0%
<b>National average</b>	77%	10%	12%	1%

**Chart 6: Proportion (with access) using customary lands for food and housing**

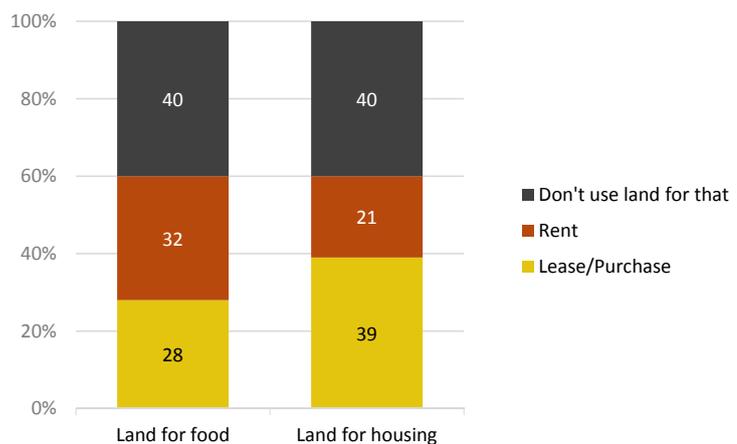


**Chart 5: Uses of customary land**



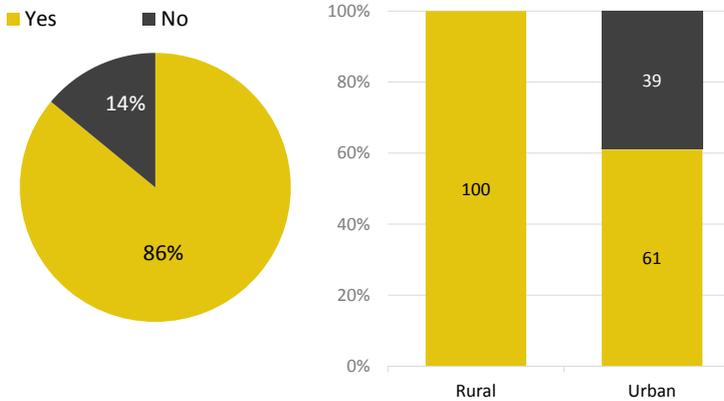
An estimated 40% of urban dwellers who lack access to customary land choose not to use land for housing or for growing food crops. The majority, however, rent or lease land for those purposes (Chart 7).

**Chart 7: Method of obtaining land for food production and housing (urban)**

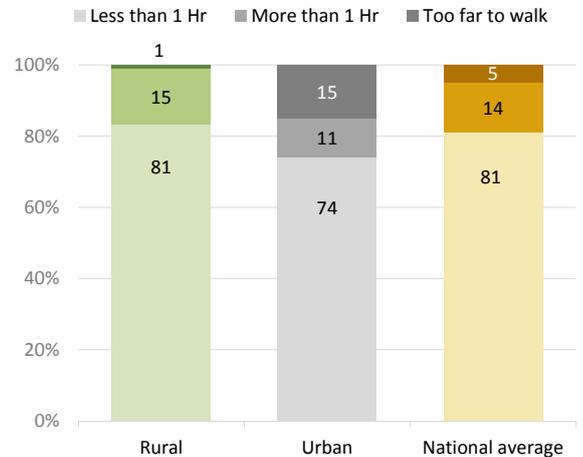


Closely in step with access to customary land is access to forest resources, with 100% of rural Ni-Vanuatu claiming free access to the many assets that forests provide – seasonal fruits and nuts, firewood, building materials, and medicines to name a few. The majority of those with access to forest resources are within 1 hour’s walking distance (Chart 8). Walking distance becomes more of a challenge in urban areas, where for 15 per cent of people with free access to forest resources, access is well outside walking distance.

**Chart 8: Household access to forest resources**

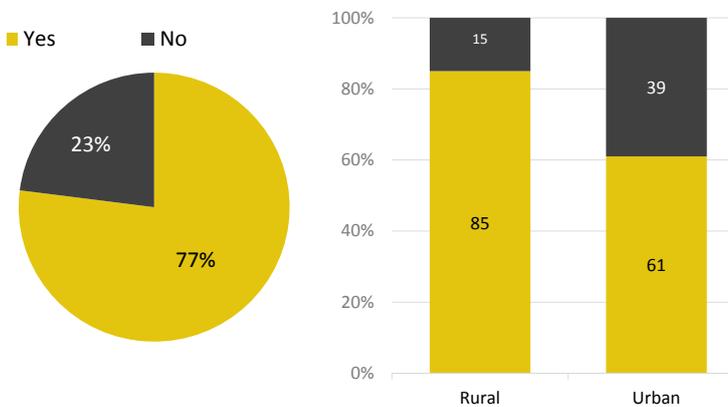


**Distance to forest resources:**



Fewer people have free access to marine resources, including fresh fish and shellfish, based on household proximity to such resources, although the great majority of people enjoy such access and are within one hour’s walking distance (Chart 9). As with forest resources, distance is more of a challenge for urban populations, where for one in three people access means either long walks or access to places outside walking distance. Free access to forest and marine resources are two important indicators of food security, ensuring access to free and nutritious sources of food to supplement diets

**Chart 9: Household access to marine resources**



**Distance to marine resources:**

