## **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **VANUATU TO RECEIVE GLOBAL FUNDS FOR EDUCATION**

**Port Vila, VANUATU. 22 December 2017** – Vanuatu's recent successful submission to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) for a grant to conduct a comprehensive education sector analysis and planning signals the importance Vanuatu has given to place education at the centre of their social and economic development strategies and planning. The education sector analysis and planning aims to strengthen the knowledge required for the development of more equitable and efficient education sector plans and to enforce the capacity building for the MOET Staff.

"We are extremely pleased that our submission to the GPE has been successful. This is a key achievement and milestone for MoET. The sector analysis will help us have a greater understanding of what has been working in the system and where are the gaps that need further strengthening to ensure a quality and equitable education system" said Mr. Serge Lewawa, Director of Policy and Planning Division. "This analysis will also guide the development of a new Vanuatu education and training sector strategy (VETSS) that will help us not only strengthen our systems but it will also provide the foundations upon which all other future sector plans and strategies within MoET will be based on."

"This process would not have been possible without our partners - UNICEF and the Australian Government in particular, for providing ongoing technical assistance and support to the MoET in efforts to improve education at all levels in Vanuatu," said Lewawa.

Furthermore, the Hon. Jean-Pierre Nirua, Minister of Education and Training also congratulate all members of the Local Education Working Group for the trust, guidance and commitments they have invested in the GPE road-map which contributed to the approval of the Vanuatu Education Sector Plan Development Grant.

"Let's now ensure we implement this programme within the given timeframe to prove our collective ability to achieve or deliver effectively, using assistance granted to Vanuatu".

"Congratulations Vanuatu for not only securing these GPE funds but more importantly, for prioritizing education at all levels in Vanuatu, especially for every child in the country," said Andrew Parker, Chief of UNICEF Pacific Vanuatu Field Office. He also added that UNICEF continues to support every effort towards better evidence based policy making and systems strengthening in the education sector and look forward to continuing to work closely with the Government of Vanuatu, to especially accelerate results for children in the country.

The education sector analysis will commence in early 2018 and will provide the base and evidence for the development of a new VETSS (2019-2030). This strategy will define the future of the education and training system in Vanuatu – from early childhood care and education (ECCE), primary, secondary, post-secondary education and training, as well as non-formal education over the course of the next 11 years.