



PANAMÁ

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# VERAGUAS

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## NDPBA PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS PROFILE

# PANAMÁ VERAGUAS

## CAPITAL: SANTIAGO DE VERAGUAS

Area: 10,588 km<sup>2</sup>

The Veraguas province is located in the western region of Panama. This Province is divided into 12 districts: Santiago de Veraguas (The Capital), Atalaya, Calobre, Cañazas, La Mesa, Las Palmas, Mariato, Montijo, Río de Jesús, San Francisco, Santa Fe, Santiago and Soná. The province borders Atlantic Ocean to the north, Pacific Ocean to the south, Ngäbe Buglé and Chiriquí to the west and Colón, Coclé, Herrera and Los Santos to the east. The main economic sources are cattle, coffee and fishing.



## RISK AND VULNERABILITY COMPONENT SCORE



### MULTI-HAZARD RISK (MHR) - Medium

Score: 0.516 • Rank: 5/13



### RESILIENCE (R) - Medium

Score: 0.571 • Rank: 6/13



### MULTI-HAZARD EXPOSURE (MHE) - Very High

Score: 0.691 • Rank: 2/13



### VULNERABILITY (V) - Very High

Score: 0.406 • Rank: 6/13



### COPING CAPACITY (CC) - Medium

Score: 0.549 • Rank: 5/13



Population (2020 Estimate)

**248,325**



Population in poverty

**34.0%**



Average years in school

**8.3**



Access to improved water

**5.4% households**



Infant mortality rate  
(per 1,000 live births)

**7**

\*For more information on data and components please visit: <https://bit.ly/2LqVoUO>



## MULTI-HAZARD EXPOSURE (MHE)

**RANK: 2 / 13 PROVINCES AND  
INDIGENOUS COMARCAS**  
**SCORE: 0.691**



**MHE**  
**0.691**

**Raw MHE**  
**0.698**

**Relative MHE**  
**0.684**

### ESTIMATED POPULATION AND CAPITAL EXPOSED TO EACH HAZARD:



Earthquake

**64.5%**

**160,207**  
**3.4 Billion**



Flood

**3.8%**

**9,387**  
**319.9 Million**



Landslide

**1.6%**

**4,036**  
**137.9 Million**



Storm Surge

**0.3%**

**803**  
**15 Million**



Sea Level Rise

**6.2%**

**15,486**  
**636.8 Million**



Wildfire

**22.6%**

**56,257**  
**1.4 Billion**



Tsunami

**1.1%**

**2,671**  
**160 Thousand**



## VULNERABILITY (V)

**RANK: 6 / 13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED**  
**SCORE: 0.406**

Vulnerability in Veraguas is primarily driven by Gender Inequality and Information Access Vulnerability. The bar charts indicate the socioeconomic themes contributing to the overall Vulnerability score.



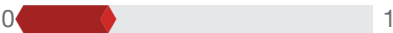
### Environmental Stress SCORE: 0.434 RANK: 7/13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED



<b>0.12%</b> Percent forest cover lost	<b>63.8</b> Density of livestock per sq. km	<b>83.5%</b> Percent of freshwater consumption to production
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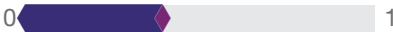
### Vulnerable Health Status SCORE: 0.247 RANK: 12/13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED



<b>34.5</b> Dengue incidence per 100,000 persons	<b>0.5</b> AIDS incidence per 100,000 persons	<b>0.4</b> Malaria incidence per 100,000 persons	<b>18.3</b> TB incidence per 100,000 persons	<b>14.5%</b> Prevalence of stunting	<b>3.6%</b> Disability	<b>24.85</b> Maternal Mortality Rate per 100,000 live births
<b>6.8</b> Infant mortality per 1,000 live births	<b>77.48</b> Life expectancy					



### Clean Water Vulnerability SCORE: 0.399 RANK: 6/13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED



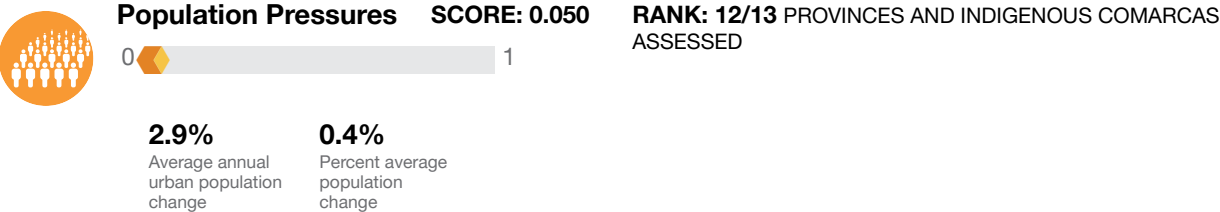
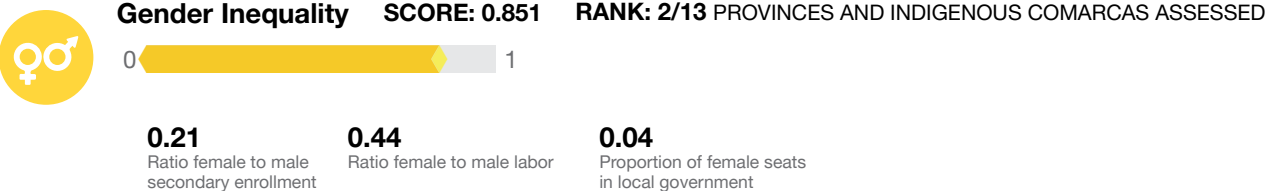
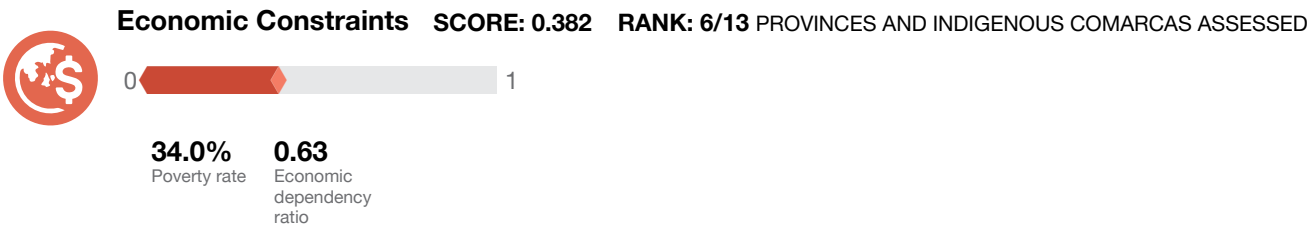
<b>5.4%</b> Households with access to improved drinking water	<b>95.5%</b> Households with access to improved sanitation
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### Information Access Vulnerability SCORE: 0.478 RANK: 6/13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED



<b>71.3%</b> Households with radio	<b>75.4%</b> Households with TV	<b>49.4%</b> Households with internet	<b>71.8%</b> School attendance rate	<b>8.26</b> Average years of schooling	<b>8.0%</b> Illiteracy rate
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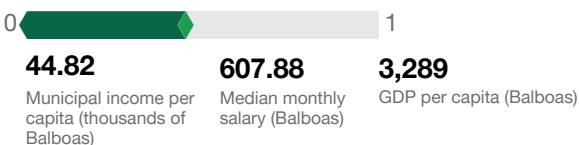
## COPING CAPACITY (CC)

**RANK: 5 / 13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED**  
**SCORE: 0.549**

Veraguas exhibits weaker Coping Capacity in the areas of Economic Capacity and Transportation Capacity. The bar charts indicate the socioeconomic themes contributing to the overall Coping Capacity score.



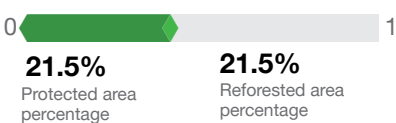
### Economic Capacity SCORE: 0.460 RANK: 8/13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED



### Governance SCORE: 0.633 RANK: 2/0,633 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED



### Environmental Capacity SCORE: 0.416 RANK: 7/13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED



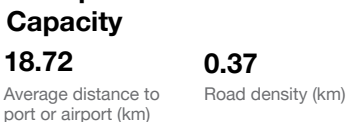
### Infrastructure Capacity SCORE: 0.597 RANK: 8/13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED



### Health Care Capacity SCORE: 0.598 RANK: 6/13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED



### Transportation Capacity SCORE: 0.5 RANK: 8/13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED



### Communications Capacity SCORE: 0.624 RANK: 8/13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED



### Energy Capacity SCORE: 0.666 RANK: 8/13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED







## RESILIENCE (R)

**RANK: 6 / 13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED**  
**SCORE: 0.571**

Veraguas's score and ranking are due to Very High Vulnerability combined with Medium Coping Capacity scores.

Below are the four thematic areas with the weakest relative scores:



**Gender Inequality**



**Information Access Vulnerability**



**Economic Capacity**



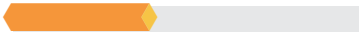
**Transportation Capacity**



## HAZARD-SPECIFIC RISK (HSR)



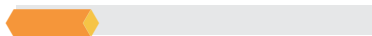
**Earthquake**



**RANK: 5 / 13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED**  
**SCORE: 0.402**



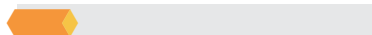
**Flood**



**RANK: 4 / 13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED**  
**SCORE: 0.224**



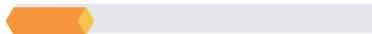
**Sea Level Rise**



**RANK: 10 / 13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED**  
**SCORE: 0.161**



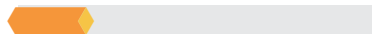
**Storm Surge**



**RANK: 6 / 13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED**  
**SCORE: 0.210**



**Landslide**



**RANK: 3 / 13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED**  
**SCORE: 0.205**



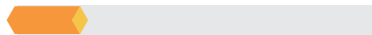
**Wildfire**



**RANK: 5 / 13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED**  
**SCORE: 0.322**



**Tsunami**



**RANK: 5 / 13 PROVINCES AND INDIGENOUS COMARCAS ASSESSED**  
**SCORE: 0.190**



## MULTI-HAZARD RISK (MHR)

**5 / 13**

RANK WITHIN PROVINCES AND  
INDIGENOUS COMARCAS  
SCORE: 0.516



Veraguas's score and ranking are due to Very High Multi-hazard Exposure combined with Very High Vulnerability and Medium Coping Capacity scores.10,588

### Multi-hazard risk component scores compared to overall average country scores:



#### Multi-Hazard Exposure



#### Vulnerability



#### Coping Capacity





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## VERAGUAS RECOMMENDATIONS



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### Gender Inequality

Veraguas has the second-highest Gender Inequality rank in Panama. Contributing to the high rank are gender-based disparities in secondary education enrollment and labor force participation, in addition to limited female representation in local government. Provinces where women are less economically and politically active may represent economic dependence, putting additional strain on civil society. Population increases create additional competition in the workforce. A lack of targeted interventions to ensure women's participation can increase gender inequality, creating a considerable disparity in incomes and livelihoods between women and men.

Boost labor participation by promoting workforce opportunities for women that include provisions for family support, such as quality, affordable childcare. Support equal pay for equal work to foster economic growth and reduce economic dependency.

Design and implement intervention strategies to promote and sustain engagement of both male and female students in secondary-level education and reduce dropout rates. Promote development and empowerment of young people through social support structures and employment opportunities including diverse school-to-work programs and leadership academies.

## VERAGUAS RECOMMENDATIONS

# 2

### Information Access Vulnerability

Information access vulnerability intensifies marginalization and population pressures by preventing entry into the workforce and disproportionately affects disparate populations such as women and girls. Other issues such as food security and increases in criminal activity have also been linked to information access vulnerability. Lack of ability to deliver critical messages related to education, health, and natural disasters affects society at all levels, especially parts of society without reliable communication in their homes. Given that Veraguas has the second highest overall Multi-Hazard Exposure in Panama, information access represents a vital lifeline for communicating and reducing hazard impacts.

Address barriers to education and the possible drivers (poverty, food insecurity) that limit individuals' opportunities for education. Ensure households have reliable access to communications within their home, such as radio, television, and phone line. Effective communication and warning systems greatly reduce risk and vulnerability.

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## VERAGUAS RECOMMENDATIONS

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### 3

#### **Economic Capacity**

Socioeconomic deprivation increases dependency on limited both government resources and individuals and limits economic opportunity and mobility. Lack of economic capacity increases criminal activity, provides opportunities for transnational criminal organizations to gain influence, and stresses relationships between individuals and civil society.

Encourage programs to generate public revenue and create new job opportunities. Address existing public policy to limit inflation and ensure equal employment opportunities, especially for marginalized populations. Expand and ensure equal opportunity programs for disparate people to increase economic opportunity for all.

Design and implement intervention strategies to promote and sustain engagement of both male and female students in secondary-level education and reduce dropout rates. Promote development and empowerment of young people through social support structures and employment opportunities including diverse school-to-work programs and leadership academies.

## VERAGUAS RECOMMENDATIONS

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# 4

### Transportation Capacity

Limited transportation capacity within a province limits the economic opportunity and mobility of society, and it limits the opportunity for individuals to attend higher education and find gainful employment. Reduced transportation capacity can also hamper emergency response activities and decrease public access to vital resources such as adequate healthcare and food.

Identify areas with limited transportation opportunities to identify the best project areas where increasing transportation capacity has the highest impact. Identify emergency routes and vital transportation routes that provide critical access to services to the population. Ensure new transportation routes are developed within sustainable development guidelines with proper materials.

**Better solutions.  
Fewer disasters.**

# Safer world.

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