

Red Cross, TVET and VIT partner in Tanna reconstruction

CYCLONE PROOF HOUSES HAVE been designed and contracts were awarded to reconstruct damaged buildings in the provinces of Tafea and Shefa, after cyclone Pam.

People's houses, schools and hospitals were shattered on all affected islands.

The French Red Cross, Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT) and the Australian Government funded Tafea Centre joined efforts to find innovative ways to help in the reconstruction of buildings on Tanna.

Tanna, in Tafea, was the worst affected island.

VIT has been engaged by the Australian Government funded Tafea Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Centre to deliver construction training to participants who will be contracted by the French Red Cross to rebuild 16 classrooms on north Tanna.

'Managing construction project' is the name of this training accredited by the Vanuatu Qualification Authority (VQA).

TVET initially piloted the project last year on Tanna.

This year's training was eight weeks long. It was

facilitated by trainers from VIT with Tafea TVET Centre staff proving coordination on ground.

There were 26 participants, mainly from North Tanna.

They undertook various activities while covering different topics regarding the project such as drawing using scale measurements, addressing the importance of planning, organizing small projects, and hands on practical on the construction of a building.

They also learned technical skills in their village.

According to the Manager of the Tafea TVET Centre, Joe Iautim: "The French Red Cross wants to do something that will benefit people in the long run.

"That is why we (Tafea TVET Centre and VIT) worked together by organizing this training for building construction.

"It will be beneficial in a way that the participants will be train to build the classrooms and therefore acquire building skills they can use in the future.

"Red Cross provided accommodation and catering for the trainers and



The 'Managing Construction Project' on Tanna

participants at the training site along with classroom materials and construction tools used during practical while TVET took care of trainers and

participants traveling costs, air freight of training materials, stationery and accommodation of trainers at Lenakel." Participants have constructed

two new classrooms as part of their practical sessions.

They received a statement of completion from VIT.

Meanwhile, 14 of the

participants have now been formally contracted by the French Red Cross to begin paid work in the reconstruction effort.