

## CREATING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

### Clifford's story



My name is Clifford Tarisese, and I am a single father with three children from Ambaebulu in East Ambae. My wife died a few years ago. I completed my primary education (Years 1-6) here in Ambaebulu and my secondary education (Years 7-10) at Saint Patrick College. I then enrolled in a few courses to study at USP (University of the South Pacific) in Port Vila. It is hard to be a single dad looking after three kids, but I managed with the support of my family.

The first time I heard about the Vanuatu Skills Partnership, I thought it was a non-government organisation and never thought that one day I would be a part of it.

As a result of my participation in the construction training on West Ambae, I realised that the Vanuatu Skills Partnership is committed to developing the skills of communities and local trainers so that they can reach the next level of their potential. This motivated me to find more ways to be involved.

Previously in my career I was involved in construction on projects including building houses, water tanks and the airport upgrade. This work has led to my dream of running my own building construction company. When the Partnership approached me to participate in the construction training on West Ambae, I saw this as a step towards this vision and my goal to learn new skills. Also, for the first time ever, I could have a formal accredited qualification in construction to help support my family in the future.

During the training, I learnt a lot of new skills in three different locations and on practice projects, including setting out a brooder house, a fishpond and a nursery house. Something that I learned that I found interesting is how to mix a strong concrete cement. I never knew the importance of a perfect strong mix of concrete, but now I am an expert in this for all types of building infrastructure.

After I completed the training and returned home, I was chosen by our trainee group to be the assistant foreman on the Ambaebulu fishpond construction project. My role was to assist our foreman to make sure that tasks were carried out within the allocated timeframe and met the required quality standards.

Through this experience, the Partnership helped me elevate my skills to a higher level and enabled me to find employment, which has helped me to support my family and our needs at home.

My encouragement to youths is to work closely with the Vanuatu Skills Partnership so they can improve their skills base to achieve their goals in life. For me, the Vanuatu Skills Partnership is the guardian of my dreams and goals.