

## A ROLE MODEL FOR WOMEN IN THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR:

### *Nalinson's story*



My name is Nalinson Liu and I am from Vuindodou village in East Ambae. I am a young woman of 23 years and I live with my parents. My mother is the Penama Education Office receptionist, and my father is a local carpenter.

I completed primary education (Years 1 – 6) at Queretaro Primary School and finished my secondary school (Years 7 to 10) at Ambaebulu School, however, I didn't make it through to Year 11, so I went home to help with household tasks.

I had never heard about the Vanuatu Skills Partnership until 2020, when I joined the Partnership's Ambae Response & Recovery Project as a volunteer for the establishment of the Saratamata Multiplication Plot. This was an experience I enjoyed a lot. During this time, I was exposed to a range of farming systems and skills, which were explained to me by the Agriculture Technical Officers on the ground.

While growing up, I learnt a few things from my father, who is a carpenter, that I thought a girl like me should learn. However, when the Partnership approached me, I felt that it was time to learn new skills and to see if I could put them to practice.

**While attending the training, I learned many new terms and concepts, such as water levelling, and how to square a house, including levelling the blocks before laying. This helped me to build up my confidence to become someone who is willing to try something new and different, and from whom other young women and men can learn.**

As a volunteer with the Ambae Recovery Project, I also provided support to the new construction project at Ambaebulu School. I was chosen to be responsible for keeping timesheet records and to help others with the construction of the fishpond. This experience and the responsibilities helped me put my skills to the test, including how to work within a timeframe to successfully complete a project.

**I would like to encourage other girls and women to try something new.**

**I encourage other young women to participate in non-traditional trades, such as construction, because these activities are not only for boys but also for us as girls and women.**

**As a result of this opportunity, I am now a recognised and employed person in my community.**