



Image 1: Ms. Stephanie Kimber, First Secretary at the Australian High Commission, posing with Mr. Billysen Veruman, a Construction graduate during the Malampa Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT) Campus opening at Rensarie



MALAMPA SKILLS CENTRE

Quarterly Report
Q2, 2024



SKILLS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Priority area: Flexible delivery of accredited plumbing training at Lingarak, Malekula

Achievement/Outcome:

- The Malampa Department of Water Resources (DoWR) often gets requests from communities in various area councils to fix their water and sanitation problems. However, they can't always address these issues due to a lack of staff. In 2023, DoWR approved a VUV 30 million project to upgrade the Lingarak community water system in central Malekula, which supports around 900 people.
- The Malampa Skills Centre identified an opportunity to respond to the skills shortage by facilitating the delivery of Certificate II in Plumbing training at Lingarak. The training contributes to the national skills policy's goal of improved access to skills training for people in remote communities. Establishing a cohort of qualified plumbers in Malekula will also support responses to future disasters such as tropical cyclones.
- The Skills Centre and the Partnership's Skills for Infrastructure (Sfi) Water Sanitation and Health (WASH) team collaborated with Area Administrators and DoWR to select trainees from various area councils. They encouraged Area Administrators and provincial stakeholders to identify at least one person with a disability or one woman interested in WASH to join the training. As a result, 30 trainees (including three women and two men with disabilities) were selected.
- The Pacific Vocational Training Centre is delivering the Certificate II in Plumbing training, which started in May and will run until late August. The Malampa Provincial Government Secretary General, Mr. Ludvaune Germain, officiated the opening.



Image 2: Trainees currently attending the Certificate II Plumbing training in Lingarak posing in front of the first water stand they built within the community

SKILLS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE



Images 3 and 4: Plumbing trainees completing a practical training component on Vao Island by aligning water pipes from a local desalination plant to a community residential area

INCLUSION

Priority area: Strengthening national and provincial disability coordination systems

Achievement/Outcome:

- The Malampa Skills Centre supported the Malampa Disability Desk Officer to facilitate a week-long awareness campaign about the rights of persons with disabilities on Paama.
- This included working with provincial partners and communities, consulting with stakeholders and advocating for ways to put the National Disability Inclusive Development (NDID) Policy into practice.
- As part of the activity, awareness sessions were held with Area Administrators and community leaders to support the establishment of disability committees within the area council. As a result, the Disability Desk Officer set up five sub-area community disability associations on Paama in Tahie, Vutekai, Vaouleli, Liro, and Luvil.
- Through this network of associations, the Disability Desk Officer will further challenge discriminatory attitudes towards people with disabilities, provide additional training on the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities/NDID Policy and work to proactively encourage opportunities for people with disabilities to participate more fully in economic and social activity.
- During the week-long trip, it was found that most community members with clients and their families in Paama are involved in small livestock activities as their major source of income generation. Discussions are now underway between the Malampa Skills Centre, Malampa Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and the Disability Desk Officer to identify opportunities to further support these clients through skills transfer.



Image 5: Members of the new Vaouleli Community Disability Association officer bearers standing with community members

INCLUSION



Image 6: Mr. Vijay Lele, Malampa Disability Desk Officer meeting with Mr. Paul Viti, the DARD Agriculture Officer in Paama area council, discussing support for disability clients with their livestock production

TRAINING PROVIDER SUPPORT

Priority area: Official opening of Malampa Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT) Campus

Achievement/Outcome:

- In 2023, the Partnership supported VIT to deliver a Certificate II in Construction course at Rensarie College, Malekula. During the course, trainees renovated classrooms and upgraded WASH facilities to support the delivery of a Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Schools pilot at Rensarie College. Completion of the project required contributions from the Partnership, Malampa Education Office, Tertiary Education Directorate, Rensarie College, and the Malampa Provincial Government.
- On April 9, 2024, the Minister for Education and Training, Honourable Hymak Anatol, officially opened the new Malampa VIT Skills Campus. VIT has signed an agreement with the Rensarie School Chairman to use the facilities as its provincial centre in Malampa province. VIT is now recruiting staff and procuring resources to commence training, with bridging courses expected to commence in August. The campus will offer a variety of classes including Certificate I and Certificate II in Construction, Certificate I in Electrical Engineering, and Certificate II in Business Management.
- As part of the official opening, a graduation ceremony was held for the 25 graduates (including three women and two people with disabilities) who completed the Certificate II in Construction course in 2023.



Image 7: Hon. Hymak Anatol, Minister for Education and Training, with other delegates unveiling the new provincial centre signage for the VIT Campus in Malampa province

TRAINING PROVIDER SUPPORT



Image 8: PEO, Renjo Samuel officiating a cake cutting ceremony by the Minister of Education, Hon. Hymak Anatol, Hon. Warren Stephen, President of Malampa province, and Chief Gilbert, Landowner, to commemorate the official opening of the Malampa VIT campus



Image 9: The delegation stands at the unveiling of the new sign as part of the official opening of the Malampa VIT campus on Malekula

LESSON LEARNED AND ACTIONS

LESSON 1:

- There is need for more collaboration between the Skills Centre and local partners and stakeholders to enable effective planning and implementation of activities in Malampa.

NEXT STEPS:

- Arrange for a day meeting with each provincial partner (Government line agencies) and review all planned activities to be delivered in quarter three and four this year.

LESSON 2:

- For Sfl projects, if the delivery plan for practical works is not clearly outlined by the training provider and contractor before practical works are implemented it can then be difficult for the Service Delivery Officer to verify progress. This can lead to a delay in procurement of materials and overall project completion.

NEXT STEPS:

- Practical works are to be clearly outlined by the training provider and contractors before implementation of an activity or training. This will ease preparation of budget for practical activities including procurement and avoid delays.

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES FOR QUARTER 3?

Skills for Infrastructure

- Construction of the Malampa Travel Information Centre (MTIC)
- Graduation ceremony for Certificate II in Plumbing training at Lingarak
- Solar installation at Hokai business house and grand opening (also Environmental Sustainability)

Skills for Tourism

- MTIC establishment discussions – recruitment, governance, operations

Skills for Creative Industries

- Malampa Handicraft Centre (MHC) Annual General Meeting
- MHC operations and governance support
- Financial Literacy workshop for handicraft producers
- Quality production coaching trip to Maskelynes

Skills for Agribusiness

- Pepper farmers coaching and workshop activity
- Governance workshop for Malekula seed producers