



TORBA SKILLS CENTRE

Quarterly Report
Q3, 2024

Image 1: Food and beverage display by Motalava tourism operators after attending the refresher housekeeping, food and beverage and customer care service workshop



SKILLS FOR AGRIBUSINESS

Priority area: Sustainable and Resilient Farming Development

Achievement/Outcome:

- Torba Skills Centre in partnership with the Department of Livestock (DoL) and Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), and with support from Merelava Area Council, conducted a follow-up visit to Merelava to provide support to small livestock farmers. This included providing materials and technical knowledge on farming practices, building on support previously provided in March and June this year.
- A key focus of the visit was to support 26 small livestock farmers (particularly poultry and piggery farmers)- 12 women, and 14 men to build secure pens and strengthen their management practices. This will help ensure a reliable supply of protein for their families, create additional income-generating opportunities, and reduce the reliance of the local community on processed foods.
- During the visit, a total of ten poultry pens and seven pig pens were constructed. Contributions for the materials were received from partners including the DoL in Sola, which supplied fencing for the pig pens, chicken wire and four bags of grower pellets for chicks, and DARD, which also provided feed.
- The support provided to farmers was inclusive of people with disabilities. For example, a farmer with a disability from Big Stone village has been supported to plant over 300 yams, as well as other root crops such as cassava and sweet potatoes.
- All farmers expressed interest in receiving further support to develop their operations.

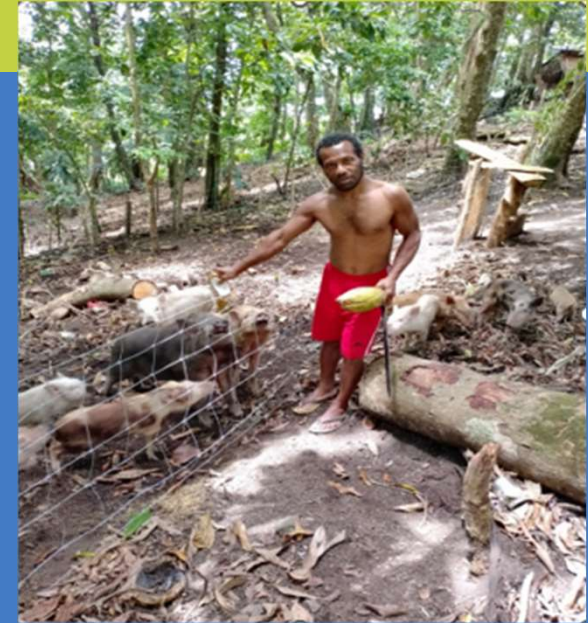


Image 2: A proud pig farmer from Aota village, Merelava showing his fully fenced pig pen

SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Priority area: Brand Awareness and Promotion of Torba Handicrafts

Achievement/Outcome:

- In September, the Torba Skills Centre supported the Torba Handicraft Cooperative (THC) to showcase products from Torba at the Vanuatu Made Trade Show in Port Vila. Due to the lack of domestic flights to Torba following the liquidation of Air Vanuatu, this meant organising a charter flight to transport products such as baskets and jewellery to Port Vila and to ensure the Torba Handicraft Coordinator could attend in-person.
- The display and sale of products during events such as this is key to promoting income generation for THC producers, most of whom are women. It is also an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the unique products that are made in Torba province. The total income received from sales of Torba Handicrafts during the event was VUV 253,150.
- During the event and the subsequent Hub Forum, a representative from the Vanuatu Intellectual Property Office (VanIPO) handed over 27 individual copyright certificates to the THC Coordinator and the THC Chairman, confirming ownership of intellectual property for producers of a range of basket and jewellery designs in Vetimboso, Merelava and Motalava.



Image 3: Presentation of the copyright certificates for Torba weavers to the Torba Handicraft Cooperative (THC) coordinator and the THC Chairman by the VANIPO registrar



Image 4 (above) and 5 (below): Torba products on display at the Vanuatu Made Trade Show in September 2024



SKILLS FOR TOURISM

Priority area: Tourism Product Readiness

Achievement/Outcome:

- In partnership with the Department of Tourism in Sola, the Torba Skills Centre organised a local coach to deliver a three-day workshop focused on housekeeping, food and beverage, and customer care for tourism operators from Vanua Iava and Mota Iava. This was the first coaching delivered to tourism operators in Torba since 2020. A total of 23 accommodation providers participated in the workshop - 8 men and 15 women.
- The workshop covered the responsibilities of staff working in the restaurant, bar, kitchen, reception and housekeeping. The coach emphasised the link between good customer care and housekeeping with customer satisfaction. The coach also explained how preparing food and beverages using local produce (including tropical fruits), and using local plants and flowers, will provide visitors to Torba with a unique experience.
- The workshop provided many opportunities for participants to learn in a 'hands on' way, helping to ensure these skills can be applied in the future. The coach also provided one-to-one coaching for some operators.
- Torba Skills Centre will continue to support these tourism operators for the remainder of 2024 and into 2025 and is looking to recruit local assistant coaches to ensure that training and mentoring support is available in Torba and not dependent on coaches coming from other provinces.



Image 6: Tourism operators in Sola, Vanua Iava who attended the three-day workshop on housekeeping, food and beverage, and customer service

" Afta long workshop ya, umi expectem blong luk wan difference long setup blong table mo how umi cleanim mo mekem bed blong guest blong umi"

Motalava Community Liaison officer

TRAINING PROVIDER SUPPORT

Priority area: Certificate I in Computing training (Block one) – Ituani Vocational Skills Centre (VSC)

Achievement/Outcome:

- The Torba Skills Centre has been working with the Torba provincial government and other agencies to build and develop human resources to improve service delivery within the province. Improving computing skills among professionals in Torba has been identified as a key opportunity to strengthen service delivery.
- In August, the Torba Skills Centre supported Ituani Vocational Skills Centre to deliver the first block of training for the Certificate I in Computing course. There were eight participants in the training (including three females and five males) from organisations including the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Merelava Area Council, and Rah Paradise Bungalows.
- The Torba Skills Centre provided general support to Ituani VSC for the delivery of the training, including meeting the costs of accommodation and transport for several of the participants. The Torba Skills Centre also sponsored the participation of Mrs Nelly Faithlyn Wohtaw, the coordinator for the Edveglal Disability Association (EDA), to boost her knowledge and skills in computer operations. The Torba Skills Centre has also procured ICT equipment for EDA, which will be handed over once Faithlyn has graduated.



Image 7: The coordinator for EDA – Mrs Nelly Faithlyn Wohtaw presenting during her participation in the Certificate I in Computing (computer operations) course at Ituani VSC in Sola

BETTER BALANCE

Priority area: Women's Economic Empowerment

Achievement/Outcome:

- A three-day life-skills sewing workshop was conducted by a local coach to the Magde Weavers Association on Mota lava. The workshop was delivered in partnership with the Department of Women's Affairs. There were 29 participants in the training (all women), including 2 women with disabilities.
- During the training, participants were taught how to use a sewing machine, how to use paint and print on fabric, and how to measure and cut material for pillowcases, tablecloths and lavalava.
- A three-day financial literacy workshop was also delivered to 14 participants (all women). The purpose of the training was to teach the participants about important concepts such as budgeting, investing, and savings in relation to their small businesses.
- Participants expressed high levels of satisfaction with both training courses and requested more opportunities to attend this type of training in the future. It was the first time such training courses have been delivered on Mota lava.
- The Torba Handicraft Cooperative will be providing 15 sewing machines to the Magde Weavers Association to provide more opportunities for these weavers to apply the skills they learned and to grow their small businesses.



Image 8: The Magde Weavers Association members were privileged to undertake the fabric painting and sewing workshop to enhance their knowledge and skills

BETTER BALANCE



Images 9: The Magde Weavers Association members undertaking the financial literacy workshop to enhance their knowledge and skills

"We would like to thank Department of Women Affairs, Mrs Rocklyn, and Vanuatu Skills Partnership for funding this important training for us to learn about financial literacy, to make money, to spend money and to invest and save money for our families. We also express our gratitude to facilitator Mrs Shirley Smith for facilitating this important training. This training will help us to manage our businesses, and we hope to grow them more in the future for our children. This also will help us with budgeting for our families, which we have never done in the past."

Remarks from one of the training participants

PARTICIPATION IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

SECTOR	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Skills for Agribusiness	12	14	26	0
Skills for Tourism	15	8	23	1 woman with a disability
Better Balance	29	0	29	2 women with disabilities
TOTAL	56	22	78	3 women