



*Image 1: Gloria Zumzum, who completed the Certificate II in Plumbing in Lingarak, Malekula, receiving her tools from community Chief representatives*



# MALAMPA SKILLS CENTRE

Quarterly Report  
Q4, 2024



# LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

## Priority Area: Strengthening provincial service delivery, leadership and governance

### Achievement/Outcome:

- On 9 October 2024, as part of the Malampa Week celebrations and graduation ceremony for Certificate II in Plumbing, the Vanuatu Skills Partnership (the Partnership) and Malampa Provincial Government Council (MPGC) signed a Partnering Agreement.
- This Partnering Commitment serves to formally recognise the mutual commitment of MPGC and the Partnership to work together towards the shared goal of supporting the coordination and implementation of the decentralisation plan in Malampa Province. The specific focus will be on creating inclusive and accessible social and economic growth for the people of Malampa Province through skills development and market access activities.
- The Agreement also outlines a range of possible areas of collaboration between the Partnership, MPGC and Area Councils of Malampa Province, which will be further developed in early 2025.
- In early 2025 the Partnership and MPGC will also co-create a 'ways of working' agreement which will outline how the two parties will work together to deliver the agreed priorities such as: development of a Malampa Provincial Strategic Plan; strategic communications support including development of a monthly Provincial newsletter; and support to enhance data collection and quality.



*Image 1: Gina Dehinavanua (DFAT Program Manager - Skills and Scholarships), Fremden Shadrack (Director Vanuatu Skills Partnership), Germain Ludvaune (Malampa Provincial Secretary General) and Warren Stephens (Malampa Province Government Council President) posing with the newly signed partnering agreement between Vanuatu Skills Partnership and Malampa Provincial Government Council*

# SKILLS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

## Priority Area: Graduation ceremony held for Certificate II in Plumbing trainees

### Achievement/Outcome:

- On Wednesday 9 October, 29 trainees (three women, 26 men including two men with disabilities) graduated with a nationally recognised Certificate II in Plumbing qualification from the Pacific Vocational Training Centre (PVTC).
- In addition, the graduates received certificates for participating in a sanitation workshop run by the Department of Water Resources (DoWR) and a tool kit of basic equipment to assist them in their future work. Both the workshop and the accredited training were delivered with the support of the Malampa Skills Centre, at Lingarak in central Malekula with the practical component conducted at Lingarak community, Malampa Vanuatu Institute of Technology (VIT) campus and Rensarie Junior Secondary School.
- Key dignitaries including Vanuatu Government officials from the DoWR, Malampa Provincial Government, and the Australian Government attended the celebrations in addition to representatives from VSP, PVTC, community members, and the graduates' families.
- As a result of the training, there are now 29 Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) technicians, from different Area Councils across Malekula, who are qualified to respond to the province's water and sanitation issues, install new water systems and support response and recovery efforts in the event of future disasters.
- With the support of the Malampa Skills Centre, graduates have since combined to create five new companies which have been registered with the Vanuatu Financial Service Commission through the support of the Malampa Skills Centre.



*Image 2: Joshua Timothy, a graduate with a disability, receives his award and tool kit from Brooks Rakau, Manager, Monitoring & Evaluation, Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources*



# SKILLS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE



Image 3: Certificate II in Plumbing trainees posing with dignitaries after their graduation ceremony in Lakatoro, Malekula

# TRAINING PROVIDER SUPPORT

**Priority Area: Reflection and learning workshop held with stakeholders from the Lingarak Plumbing Training**

## Achievement/Outcome:

- In October, a one-day learning and reflection workshop was conducted in Lakatoro, central Malekula, for stakeholders involved in the recent delivery of the Certificate II in Plumbing at Lingarak.
- Participants of the workshop included all partners who worked together during the initiative including Malampa DoWR, Malampa Skills Centre, PVTC, and community representatives.
- The objectives of the workshop were to identify and celebrate achievements, discuss challenges that impacted the delivery of the training and to identify lessons learned that could inform similar training courses in the future. Additionally, the workshop enabled participants to discuss opportunities for further collaboration over the next 12-18 months.
- During the workshop, participants agreed that key lessons for future trainings included:
  - Ensure time for communication between trainers and trainees during course delivery to discuss expectations, progress and respond to any questions or challenges that trainees have.
  - Identification of suitable practical sites before training commences to reduce transportation costs and delays.
  - Effective project management and oversight of training activities is critical, as well as the timely procurement of training materials.



*Image 4: Tano Lapi (Trainee) and Douglas Willitien (Malampa Skills Centre Service Delivery Officer) presenting the results of their group work during the reflection workshop in Lakatoro, Malekula*



# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

**Priority area: Climate Change Symposium/International Disaster Risk Reduction day held on Malekula.**

## **Achievement/Outcome:**

- A Climate Change Symposium was held by the Department of Climate Change with support from the Malampa Provincial Government and the Malampa Skills Centre, during International Disaster Risk Reduction Week in October. This is the first event of its kind for Malampa after similar events in Sanma and Penama in previous years.
- The purpose of the Symposium was to provide community members with an opportunity to understand more about climate resilience, ways in which the government is working to support community preparedness towards potential disasters, and how communities can better organise themselves to recover faster after disasters.
- The Malampa Skills Centre supported the event in several ways including:
  - Enabling the participation of 'Malekula Seed' producers to demonstrate how to preserve local seeds that are resilient to climate change to support food production again after a disaster.
  - Supporting Malampa Handicraft Centre producers to attend to gain more knowledge on how to prevent climate change impact on their production.
  - Facilitating several trade skills displays with infrastructure clients such as construction techniques that 'Build Back Better'.
  - Prompting the 29 new WASH technicians available around Malampa to support with water system repairs.
- The event was a success and has helped community members to see and understand practical steps they can put into place in their own communities that can build resilience before and if needed, after, disasters. In addition, the event strengthened the working relationship between the Department of Climate Change and the Partnership.



*Images 5 and 6: Tree planting activities along sea front near AOP Beach, Central Malekula*

# SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

## Priority area: Product development workshop for Maskeleyne weavers

### Achievement/Outcome:

- A product development and Teri Dye workshop was held in November for handicraft producers from the Maskeleynes who attended an introductory workshop in 2023. 22 producers (all women) attended the event. This included three new clients from last year, indicating more interest among the community.
- For the first time, Assistant Coach, Patricia Mataru, led the workshop as part of her professional development as a coach. Insights from her experiences in Port Vila and New Zealand were obvious as she shared her knowledge and understanding of quality standards and her technical expertise.
- During the workshop, a new and more streamlined process for using Teri Dye was demonstrated and trialled by clients in addition to development and testing of new product designs.
- As a result, 20 fans and 23 mats were produced for a Malampa Handicraft Centre order.
- The fans developed by these producers are unique to Maskelyne islands and in wide demand. A request has been made, through the Partnership, to the Vanuatu Intellectual Property Office to support the registration and protection of these artisans and their designs.



*Image 7: Maskelyne handicraft producers during the follow up Teri Dye and product development workshop standing with VSP Skills for Creative Industries Officer, Sheila George (right), in the Maskelyne islands, South Malekula*



# SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



*Image 8: A Maskelyne handicraft producer weaving a mat using well prepared pandanus leaves painted with Teri Dye*



*Image 9: Fans woven with well prepared pandanus leaves painted with Teri Dye*

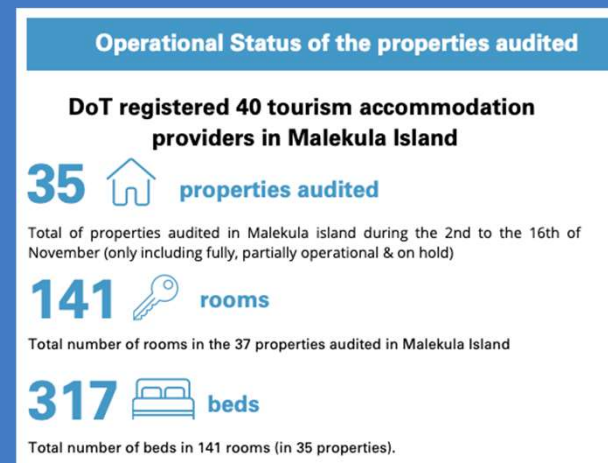


# SKILLS FOR TOURISM

## Priority Area: Tourism accommodation business readiness assessment

### Achievement/Outcome:

- In collaboration with the Department of Tourism (DoT) and the Vanuatu Tourism Office (VTO), the Malampa Skills Centre supported the delivery of an audit of tourism accommodation providers on Malekula.
- With the Malampa Travel Information Centre due to open in 2025, in addition to several new airlines now flying international to Vanuatu, the purpose of the audit was to conduct a detailed assessment into tourism accommodation products to evaluate their current quality and 'readiness' for guests.
- The audit was completed using product readiness tools and resources developed in conjunction with DoT and VTO earlier in 2024.
- A total of 35 accommodation properties on Malekula participated in the audit, including a mix of fully and partially operational properties, in addition to a small number of closed businesses. Key findings from the audit include:
  - Target markets for accommodation providers in Malekula: 78% business and local visitors and 22% international tourists.
  - Quality ratings suggest that most accommodation providers in Malekula need skills training to enhance rooms, amenities, food and beverages, location, security and the guest experience.
- The data will be used by the DoT and VTO to inform their support for the tourism sector in Malekula in 2025.



*Image 10: Summary infographic information from the assessment on Malekula*

# DISABILITY INCLUSION

## Priority Area: Celebrations for International Day for People with Disability held on Paama

### Achievement/Outcome:

- Malampa Skills Centre supported the Malampa Provincial Disability Desk Officer, together with sector partners from the Malampa Provincial Government, the Department of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Paama Community, Red Cross Society and the Vanuatu Australia Policing and Justice Program to organize a week-long celebration for International Disability Day on Paama island.
- The objectives of the event included recognising the achievements, skills and contributions of people with disabilities to society, highlighting the challenges they face, promoting understanding and acceptance of disability, and encouraging solutions that address accessibility and inclusivity.
- During the event, several successful Malampa-based entrepreneurs with disabilities held discussions with community members about their talents and their lived experiences as people with disabilities.
- The Paama community had the chance to meet Anderson Lekum, a skilled artisan with a disability from Uripiv island, and to observe his talent and skill in sand drawing and printing t-shirts.
- Fred Rihai, a farmer with disability from Malekula, who has been supported by Malampa Skills Centre to diversify into piggery and poultry, shared his knowledge and skills on how to make a living out from these agricultural activities despite his impairment. There was good feedback and interest from Paama community members in their stories and experiences.



*Image 11: Vanuatu Skills Partnership (VSP) Inclusion staff member, Joseph Kaloran, delivering a speech at the official opening of the international disability day event in Paama*



## PARTICIPATION IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING\*

SECTOR	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Skills for Creative Industries	36	three	39	one woman with a disability

*\*Participants in skills training activities only- this data excludes market access activities, consultations and events.*