



VANUATU
**DEPARTMENT
OF INDUSTRY**



VANUATU
**SKILLS
PARTNERSHIP**



Image 1: Boa Aliu, a single mother of three and new graduate of Certificate II in Building Construction delivered at Wusi, receives her tools from Vanuatu Skills Partnership Chief Financial Officer, Ruth Seketa

SANMA SKILLS CENTRE

Quarterly Report
Q4, 2024

**Australian
Aid** 



SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Priority Area: Sanma Creative Industries Community Company (SCICC) Product Development – Contemporary Bags

Achievement/Outcome:

- In collaboration with local industry coach, Annie Jimmy, the Sanma Skills Centre successfully delivered a workshop for ten female producers (including one person with a disability from the SCICC) on how to make contemporary bags.
- Contemporary bags are sewed using both pandanus and fabrics. In this workshop, the participants were taught how to produce four different styles of contemporary bags. This will increase the range of high-value products available for sale to locals and tourists at Pekoia Airport shop.
- After the workshop, the producers sold most of these new products to a delegation from the Minister of Justice and Community Services (MoJCS) during their visit to Sanma Skills Centre. Those remaining will be used as samples for producers to replicate the designs in the future. Total sales of these products during the visit was VUV 24,000. This suggests market demand for these types of products is high.

"I am very happy to learn how to make these new bags using pandanus and fabric. I see the bags around but today I finally was able to do one myself."

Edrith Steven, Yumitu Craft participant



Image 2 (above): Minister of Justice and Community Services visit to SCICC office; Image 3 (below): Workshop participants displaying their contemporary bags



SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES



Image 4: Tourists visiting the SCICC booth at the Vanuatu Made event in Port Vila, September 2024



Image 5: The Pekoa Airport Shopkeeper showing SCICC products to a tourist

SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Priority Area: Strengthening SCICC Governance

Achievement/Outcome:

- With support from the Sanma Skills Centre, SCICC held their second Annual General Meeting on 28 November at Ports and Harbour Conference Room in Luganville.
- The meeting brought together company shareholders (including Sanma Provincial Government, Department of Industry, Department of Cooperatives, Department of Woman's Affairs, Luganville Municipal and Vanuatu Skills Partnership), the Board of Directors, producers and SCICC management to discuss the progress made by SCICC in 2024 and priorities for the next 12 months.
- Key decisions and actions arising from the AGM include:
 - Consultations on the most appropriate operating model for SCICC (co-operative or company) will be conducted in early 2025.
 - There was a commitment to continue to growing SCICC membership and increasing production, given the challenges of meeting local and international demand for SCICC products.
 - The financial position of SCICC needs to be stronger before a dividend can be paid to SCICC members.
- The Partnership's Skills for Creative Industries Manager, Mr Richie John, delivered a presentation to participants to promote awareness of good governance, and to remind everyone of the roles and responsibilities of the different members.



Images 6: SCICC AGM, held on 28 November 2024

TRAINING PROVIDER SUPPORT



Image 7 (above): Graduates pose for a photo with Director of APTC, Nicholas Venables, and Training Manager, Kevin Tabi; Image 8 (below): A female graduate receives her tools from Vanuatu Skills Partnership Chief Financial Officer, Ruth Seketa



Priority Area: Certificate II in Building Construction at Wusi, West Coast Santo

Achievement/Outcome:

- In partnership with Sanma Provincial Government Council and the Australia Pacific Training Coalition (APTC), the Sanma Skills Centre supported the delivery of a Certificate II in Building Construction course at Wusi, West Coast Santo. There were 25 participants in the training including five women.
- As part of the training, they then worked on the construction of the West Coast Area Council building, providing them with an exciting opportunity to get practical experience delivering a construction project under the supervision of dedicated APTC trainers.
- In late November, the Sanma Skills Centre and APTC organised a graduation ceremony for the successful trainees. At the ceremony, the Sanma Skills Centre provided the graduates with basic construction tools to support their future work.
- After completing the training, these 25 individuals were supported by the Sanma Skills Centre to establish their own business, Nojavan Construction Company.
- Nojavan Construction Company have since been sub-contracted by Sanma-based company, Tulaet Construction, to support construction of the Tasmate Health Facility in West Coast Santo in 2025.

TRAINING PROVIDER SUPPORT



Images 9 & 10: Members of Nojavan Construction Company working on the constructing of the Tasmate Health Facility in West Coast Santo shortly after establishing their new company

SKILLS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Priority Area: Opening of West Coast Area Council building in Wusi, Santo

Achievement/Outcome:

- The West Coast Area Council Headquarters at Wusi, Santo, was officially opened on 26 November 2024, marking a significant advancement in the National Government's vision of decentralisation and enhanced engagement with local communities.
- The construction of the building was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the government of Vanuatu through the Sanma Provincial Government and the Vanuatu Coastal Adaptation Project 2, the Government of Australia through the Vanuatu Skills Partnership, Sanma Skills Centre under the Ministry of Education and Training, and APTC, and the Santo West Coast Area Council and Wusi Community.
- Since the opening of the headquarters several government departments have expressed interest in establishing new offices at Wusi. These include Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, Civil Registry and Vanuatu Police Force.
- The West Coast Area Council building embodies partners' commitment to decentralisation and bringing the government closer to the people. This facility is not just a building; it represents the strong partnership between all partners and the power of skills development at the community level.



Image 11 (above): Official opening of West Coast Area Council Headquarters at Wusi, Santo; Image 12 (below): Community members in Wusi, West Coast Santo, witnessing the opening of the new Area Council Headquarters



SKILLS FOR AGRIBUSINESS

Priority area: Malo pepper packaging, labelling and marketing

Achievement/Outcome:

- In October 2024, six members of two new pepper associations recently established on Malo (all men) were invited to the Sanma Skills Centre for a five-day coaching activity focused on packaging, labelling and marketing pepper. The coaching was delivered by Partnership coach, Patick Joe, and continues the support provided to Malo pepper farmers since April 2024.
- During the activity, pepper producers finalised the labelling of their products to prepare them for sale and contributed to the development of a brochure describing the health benefits of pepper which was then distributed to food stalls and restaurants around Luganville.
- As a result of the labelling activities and brochure distributions in November and December, Malo pepper farms sold approximately VUV 60,000 worth of stock.
- The second part of the activity was a visit to local communities on Malo to confirm the number of people involved in pepper farming to assist with plans for further support in 2025. During the visit, the lack of proper storage and processing facilities for pepper was identified as a key issue that needs to be resolved in order for pepper producers to continue expanding their enterprise.



Image 13: The marketing brochure for Malo pepper which was distributed to food stalls, hotels and restaurants in Luganville

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Priority area: Strengthening provincial service delivery, leadership and governance.

Achievement/Outcome:

- On 26 November 2024, as part of the official launching of the West Coast Area Council building at Wusi, Santo, the Vanuatu Skills Partnership (the Partnership) and Sanma Provincial Government Council (SPGC) signed a Partnering Agreement.
- The Partnering Agreement formally recognises the mutual commitment of the Partnership and the SPGC to work together towards the shared goal of supporting the coordination and implementation of the decentralisation plan in Sanma Province. The focus of the partnership will be on creating inclusive and accessible social and economic growth for the people of Sanma Province through skills development and market access activities.
- The Partnering Agreement outlines a range of possible areas of collaboration between the Partnership, SPGC and Area Councils of Sanma Province, which will be further developed in early 2025. The Partnership and SPGC will also co-create a 'ways of working' agreement which will outline how the two parties will work together to deliver the agreed priorities.
- The signing of the Partnering Agreement is an important milestone because it strengthens the working relationship between the SPGC and the Partnership and formalises important commitments such as the provision of resources and technical support.



Image 14: Manager of Sanma Skills Centre, Simeon Bage, and President of Sanma Province, Bradley Livo, exchange documents after signing a Partnering Agreement between the Partnership and the Sanma Provincial Government

PARTICIPATION IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAININGS

SECTOR	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Skills for Infrastructure	5	20	25	0
Skills for Creative Industries	10	0	10	1 woman
Skills for Agribusiness	0	6	6	0
TOTAL	15	26	41	1 woman

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