



TORBA SKILLS CENTRE

Quarterly Report
Q4, 2024

Image 1: Torba Disability Day celebrations on Mota island. The cutting of cake by the Hon. Councilor for Mota island with representatives of people with disabilities in the community



SKILLS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Priority Area: Water system upgrades for five communities in Merelava

Achievement/Outcome:

- The Torba Skills Centre, in partnership with the Department of Water Resources (DoWR) and the Merelava Area Council, facilitated upgrades to water-tank catchment systems in the five communities on remote Merelava Island. This has improved access to fresh water for over 700 people.
- This concept, a first of its kind in Torba, aims to promote the sustainable benefits of proper water management and empower local communities to participate in decision-making, particularly in the ongoing maintenance of their water systems. The installation of large-scale water tanks also supports these communities to store clean water and promote community resilience in times of drought.
- 22 volunteers (all men, including two men with disabilities) from across the five communities were engaged to support water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) professionals during installation. This has provided them with hands on experience and the skills required to support ongoing maintenance works.
- Each community supported the initiative through the collection of coral and sand while the Mere Lava Area Council contributed VUV 1,000,000 to support this activity via the Skills Development Fund. This the largest co-investment from an Area Council for the Vanuatu Skills Partnership to date and highlights the value and reputation of the Torba Skills Centre within the community.



Image 2: A team comprised of volunteers from Merelava helping to build a community water system

SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Priority Area: Sustainable business hub management

Achievement/Outcome:

- The Torba Skills Centre supported the Torba Handicraft Cooperative (THC) and the Torba Cooperative Department Office in distributing dividends from 2023 to THC members.
- THC – the province’s handicraft business hub – has 98 registered members: 86 women, 12 men and two people with disabilities (one man and one woman). The dividend was shared between these members, including producers from Merelava and Motalava.
- The total dividend distributed to producers, VUV 180,690, is higher than the 2022 dividend. The highest dividend of VUV 12,200 was paid to Marie Vira, a producer from Vetimboso.
- The annual distribution of dividends encourages both men and women to participate in the handicraft industry, and promotes the long-term sustainability of the sector in Torba.
- An Annual General Meeting will be held early in 2025 to further boost transparency and accountability of THC to its membership.



Images 3 & 4: Mr. Bernard Vira (above) and Ms. Victoria Doran (below), two producers with disabilities and long-time members of THC receiving their dividends



SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Priority Area: Enhancing brand awareness and market access within Torba

Achievement/Outcome:

- A two-day mini 'Vanuatu Made' Tradeshow was held in Sola for the first time to boost local interest and understanding of Torba-made products.
- Hosted by the Department of Industry (DoI) with support from the Torba Skills Centre, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Department of Livestock and the provincial government, the event brought together a total of 39 farmers and craft producers (33 men and six women) from across Torba to showcase their products.
- During the mini tradeshow, participants generated a total of VUV 377,700 in sales.
- The Torba Skills Centre supported the event by facilitating the participation of craft producers from Merelava, Motalava, and Vetimboso in Sola. This ensured a diverse range of products was showcased and that THC members from across Torba were represented.



Image 5: Showcase of craft products during the mini trade show event in Sola

TRAINING PROVIDER SUPPORT

Priority Area: Building local PSET provider capacity

Achievement/Outcome:

- For the first time, a Certificate I in Building Construction course has been delivered at the Vetimboso Vocational Training Centre (VTC). This follows the approval to deliver that Vetimboso VTC received from the Vanuatu Qualifications Authority in 2023.
- This represents a significant milestone for the skills system in Torba as this is the first Torba-based provider with the ability to deliver a trades qualification.
- The Torba Skills Centre has provided ongoing support to Vetimboso VTC since its initial application for registration and intention to deliver. For example, the Torba Skills Centre has supported Vetimboso VTC trainers to earn their trainer qualifications and to develop course materials and lesson plans. Vetimboso VTC also received support to procure specific equipment needed to allow the centre to deliver the construction qualification.
- The Torba Skills Centre covered tuition fees for the first group of trainees (14 men) for this course. By supporting these trainees, the Centre aims to showcase the tangible benefits of the training to the community of Vetimboso and other communities in Torba. It is hoped that this demonstration of results will inspire more people to participate in training at Vetimboso VTC in the future.



Image 6: Trainees attend the first ever Certificate I in Building Construction delivered by Vetimboso VTC

SKILLS FOR HEALTH



Image 7: Trainees during the ICT Computing Certificate I graduation in Sola in Quarter 2 2024

Priority Area: Professional development of provincial health officers

Achievement/Outcome:

- In 2023, a partnership between the Torba Skills Centre and the Torba Provincial Health Office led to the delivery of a Certificate I in Computing course by Ituani Vocational Skills Centre, for five provincial health officers (four male and one female) from across Torba province. A formal graduation ceremony was held in Sola on 24 April 2024 where these officers received their nationally recognised certificates.
- Specifically targeting improvements to the Health Information System, the training provided provincial health staff from Torba with practical Information Communication and Technology (ICT) skills to improve their data management, reporting and communication with national colleagues.
- After the graduation ceremony, the Partnership completed a tracer survey to understand how the graduates had been able to apply the knowledge and skills they learnt during the course, and to identify opportunities for providing additional support.
- In their responses to the survey, most graduates stated they had improved confidence to operate a computer following the training and are now using the new skills every day/weekly in their work. All trainees stated that they were very satisfied with the training. Two of the trainees highlighted that additional resources such as personal work laptops were needed to enable them to put skills in action more often.

INCLUSION

Priority Area: National and provincial disability coordination systems

Achievement/Outcome:

- The Torba Disability Desk under the Ministry of Justice & Community Services (MoJCS) was supported by the Torba Skills Centre to organise an International Disability Day celebration on Mota Island.
- A first for Mota and its community, the celebration gathered different partners, including representatives from the Department of Youth & Sport, MoJCS' Children's Desk, Women's Counselling Centre and World Vision along with the communities of Mota. 130 people (80 men and 50 women, including 15 people with disabilities) participated in the event.
- This marked the first event celebrating individuals with disabilities on Mota Island and highlighted their value in society, along with the current barriers to their participation to other community members. The event also gave Torba Skills Centre the opportunity to meet new people with disabilities and identify skills gaps which will inform support for these people in the future.
- World Vision distributed handbags and other gifts to all individuals with disabilities during the event, demonstrating that other partners acknowledge the significance of this event and the value of these individuals. The event will also serve as a motivator for other partners to prioritize the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in their activities.



Image 8: Participants including people with disabilities and representatives from partner organisations during the Disability Day celebration on Mota Island