



Image 1: Official opening of the Hokai Business Centre, October 2025.

MALAMPA SKILLS CENTRE

Quarterly Report
Q3 2025 (July-October)



DISABILITY INCLUSION

Priority area: National and Provincial Disability Coordination System

Achievement/Outcome:

- To achieve the 2030 People's Plan (NSDP) with regards to Social Pillar 4 on Social inclusion, it is important to ensure that key stakeholders in each province have knowledge of the United Nations Convention to the Rights of People with Disability (UNCRPD) and Vanuatu's National Disability Inclusion Development (NDID) policy.
- Therefore, the Malampa Disability Desk Officer of the Ministry of Justice, Youth and Community Services (MoJYCS), in collaboration with the Partnership through the Malampa Skills Centre, organised a three-day refresher workshop in Lakatoro on the UNCRPD and NDID policy. The Malampa Skills Centre funded the workshop venue, catering and logistics while the Desk Officer supported with coordination and facilitation.
- There were 39 participants in total (21 men, 4 with disabilities and 18 women, 4 with disabilities) including representatives from major stakeholders within Malampa Province such as Norsup Hospital, Malampa Education Office, Lakatoro Junior Secondary School, Vanuatu Climate Change Resilience Program, Vanuatu Bureau of Statistics, Area Administrators, a provincial councillor, Partnership clients with disabilities, and chairmen from disability associations across different Area Councils of Malampa.
- As a result of the workshop, participants expressed an increased awareness on the UNCRPD and NDID policy principles as well as practical strategies to create opportunities for people with disabilities, and their interests, within the community.
- Going forward, participants recognised the importance of additional awarenesses to be made at the community level and the need to support the establishment of disability associations at the Area Council level and to continue to work together so the NSDP inclusion goals can be achieved over the next four years.



Image 2: The Partnership's Disability Inclusion Coordinator, Mr. Knox Lanny, having a discussion with participants during a group activity at the workshop.



Image 3: UNCRPD and NDID workshop participants posing after the workshop.

SKILLS FOR TOURISM



Image 4: Tourism operators from Malampa who completed hospitality training in Lakatoro, September 2025.

“I learned so much in this training. Before, I didn’t know how to calculate the cost of my menu items, but now I can work out the prices properly. I also practiced making beds to the right standard, something I usually left to my staff. Now I feel confident to teach them the correct way.”

Assunda Roy owner, Lakatoro Palm Lodge

Priority area: Tourism Product Readiness

Achievement/Outcome:

- In order to create a sustainable tourism sector in Malampa, tourism operators need the required skills to manage and operate their businesses.
- The Malampa Skills Centre facilitated the delivery of a 5-day hospitality workshop at Senal, Lakatoro, from 15-19 September. There were 28 participants, comprising 8 men and 20 women, all of whom are active operators in the tourism and hospitality sector such as bungalow and guesthouse owners, and tour operators. The workshop was facilitated by Lead Coach/Trainer, Knox Taleo, and supported by three Assistant Coaches: Asnet Iopat, Jean Hymak, and Joseph Vanu.
- The purpose of the workshop was to support local tourism business operators to develop their skills and ensure customer satisfaction by strengthening their frontline service skills and building their capacity to resolve customer complaints. Participants reviewed and discussed the Department of Tourism (DOT)’s Customer Service standards, Food and Beverage standards, Housekeeping standards, and also developed their culinary skills, using local produce to prepare dishes such as fish curry and pawpaw salad, as well as learning basic menu costing.
- Going forward, all participants agreed to create their own guest feedback books to capture customer concerns and compliments. They also committed to reducing their reliance on imported drinks and promoting local beverages such as fresh fruit juice, coconut water, and traditional herbal teas. They also agreed they were better placed to cost the meals on their menus accurately and avoid financial losses.



Image 5: Hospitality training participants undertaking practical exercises in bed making at the Sun Rise bungalows.



Image 6: Participants prepare and serve beverages, learning safe handling and professional presentation skills to enhance the guest experience.

SKILLS FOR AGRIBUSINESS



Image 7: Seed refresher workshop participants in Brenwei village, Northwest Malekula.

Priority area: Sustainable Seed Bank Management and Quality Development

Achievement/Outcome:

- From 25-29 August 2025, the Vanuatu Agriculture Research Training Centre (VARTC) in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) and the Malampa Skills Centre held a seed farmers refresher workshop at Brenwei Village, Northwest Malekula.
- The purpose of the training was to refresh the knowledge of Malekula seed producers on seed extraction techniques, including different extraction methods, to maintain seed quality and seed germination.
- There were 24 participants at the training, 8 men and 16 women, including 10 current seed producers and 10 new producers. Four farmers who are interested to start producing seeds also joined the sessions.
- Over the last 12 months, the current seed farmers have produced and sold seeds worth over 7 million Vatu.
- Going forward, DARD will continue to provide one-on-one coaching to seed farmers to ensure the production of high-quality seeds.
- Malampa Skills Centre, DARD and VARTC must now work together to support farmers to develop and maintain clear and sustainable links to the domestic market (in Malekula and beyond).

SKILLS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE



Image 8: Official delegation at the opening of the Hokai Business Centre.

Priority area: Official opening of the Hokai Business Centre

Achievement/Outcome:

- The Hokai Business centre was officially opened on 9 October 2025. The opening was led by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, the President of the Malampa Provincial Government Council, Mr Jeppy Talo, Australia's Acting High Commissioner to Vanuatu, Ms Emily Fisher, and the British High Commissioner, Ms Nicolette Brent
- The Hokai Business centre was established through a collaboration between the Hokai community, South Malekula Area Council, Malampa Provincial Government Council, Malampa Skills Centre, and the British High Commission.
- The accessible building was initially constructed in 2021 by trainees from Pektel Rural Training centre as part of their practical, followed by YOMAL Construction and EPIARES construction company.
- The final finishings such as fencing, landscaping and installation of solar power were completed by the community with support from the Malampa Skills Centre, as well as the Malampa provincial government, between 2022-2024.
- The business centre will strengthen the provision of services to the people of south Malekula in line with the Government's decentralisation agenda, providing a space to accommodate an Agriculture Development Officer (ADO), and the Hokai Aid Post, which was damaged by TC Judy and Kevin in 2023. It will also serve as a market space and an evacuation centre.
- The establishment of the centre creates opportunities for more economic activities such as increased access to markets for farmers. It also provides better access to a good health facility. Should the Area Administrator's office be re-located here, other services such as the creation of National IDs would also become available.
- The Hokai community has a strategic geographical location near the centre of the south part of Malekula which is easily accessible to all communities in the south area councils by sea, as well as road access to central and north Malekula.



Image 9: Official opening of the Hokai Community Business Hub by the Minister of Internal Affairs Hon. Andrew Solomon Napuat, British High Commissioner to Vanuatu, H. E Nicolette Brent and Australia's Acting High Commissioner to Vanuatu, Ms. Emily Fisher.



Image 10: Delegation including the Malampa Provincial Government President, the Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs, and the Australian Acting High Commissioner during the unveiling of the Hokai Community Business Hub signage.

BETTER BALANCE

Priority area: Women's Economic Empowerment

Achievement/Outcome:

- In September, the Department of Women's Affairs (DWA) in collaboration with the Vanuatu Project Management Unit and the Malampa Skills Centre organised the delivery of a cookery workshop for food stall holders from Lakatoro to strengthen food safety techniques and build their cookery skills to further support their small food stall businesses.
- The training was held at Senal, Lakatoro, and involved 29 participants (24 female and 5 male). Mr. Knox Taleo was the lead coach for this training with support from a Public Health Officer (who had conducted the preceding food safety sessions) and Assistant Coach Joseph Vanu, who joined on a trial basis.
- During the workshop, participants were divided into five working groups and engaged in hands-on cooking activities. Each group was tasked with preparing a range of dishes, including salads, soups, pastries, appetisers such as samosas, and beverages. In addition, the groups practised recipe writing, portion control, cutting techniques, and plating skills to connect written instructions with practical execution. They all were given an opportunity to rotate tasks within their groups to ensure equal participation.
- After the completion of the training, participants decided to form five separate catering teams to cater at an upcoming tourism hospitality workshop (held from 15-19 September in Lakatoro). This event provided the participants with an excellent opportunity to apply their skills and serves as evidence of knowledge transfer of practical catering skills.



Image 11: Participants observing lead coach Mr. Knox Taleo, preparing a custard pie.

"Before this training, I never used recipes and just cooked by guesswork. Now I understand how to follow recipes, measure properly, and present food nicely. I feel ready to take part in catering for big events." –Female participant



Image 12: Participants share responsibilities in preparing a dish during a practical exercise.



Image 13: A participant from North West Malekula Area B displaying a plate of food prepared by the participants.



Image 14: Island Cabbage salad prepared by the participants.

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE



Image 15: Participants from the basic computing training posing with their certificates of participation.

Priority area: Basic computer workshop for construction and plumbing graduates and other key stakeholders

Achievement/Outcome:

- Recognising the critical need for basic computing skills to support successful businesses and entrepreneurial activities, the Malampa Skills Centre engaged Ituani Vocational Training Centre to deliver a Basic Computing course from 8–19 September 2025. The workshop was attended by 24 participants (8 women and 16 men).
- Participants represented a diverse range of client groups, including Malekula North Central South (MNCS) Construction Company, Yomal Construction Company, EPIARES Construction Company, plumbing businesses operating on Malekula, the Malekula Seeds Association, the Malampa Handicraft Centre (MHC), and a local handicraft coach who also serves as Vice Chair of the MHC Board of Directors.

- During the workshop, participants developed practical skills in Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, and Microsoft PowerPoint, as well as developing skills to efficiently search for information online.
- By the end of the workshop, participants had gained foundational computing skills to support business and organisational functions across their respective sectors. For example, construction companies can now prepare progress reports and draft simple tender applications. The local handicraft coach can use these skills to prepare training reports, while the MHC Manager will apply them in her management role. The Malekula Seeds Association Secretary is now better equipped to prepare reports, record meeting minutes, and carry out other secretarial duties to strengthen association governance.
- There is an opportunity for the Malampa Skills Centre to further support participants through additional computing training units in the future, such as a complete Certificate I level course, as well as additional governance and financial literacy training delivered by VCCI or the Department of Cooperatives.



Image 16: Malampa Handicraft Centre manager receiving her Certificate of Participation from the Malampa Skills Centre Manager, Willie J Kiltop, while Jack Sewen, Ituani trainer stands behind.



Image 17: Demas Jerethy, Department of Water Resources foreman, Patricia Mataru, local handicraft coach and Serel Julun during the basic computing workshop.

SKILLS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

Priority area: Infrastructure Workforce Development

Achievements/Outcomes: Graduate Tracer Survey - Trainee Outcomes in Malekula

- The 2025 Graduate Tracer Survey collected data from 15 respondents who completed the Certificate II Plumbing delivered by PVTC in 2024 and one graduate from the Certificate II Building Construction delivered in Port Vila. The sample group consisted of 1 woman and 15 men
- Results show:
 - 87% of graduates are employed post-training, an 18% increase from pre-training; most work in their trained field.
 - The female trainee gained employment after previously being unemployed.
 - 100% trainee satisfaction, with a recommendation for more practical training time.
 - Training strengthened trainees' understanding of gender equality (80%) and climate change/disability inclusion (86%).
 - Over half (54%) of graduates regularly apply their skills in paid work and to support community repairs and water system improvements repairing community water systems, repairs in schools and bungalows, supporting the Department of Water Resources in Malampa and preparing plans for water systems in the community.



Image 18: Members of the Malekula North Central South (MNCS) Construction company posing at their work site during the construction of the new wing of the Lakatoro Market House.

CLIENT MONITORING RESULTS

Priority area: Top 5 lessons from client monitoring in 2025*

Key achievements/outcomes:

- **Most clients value Malampa Skills Centre skills training for income generation** - 95% of pepper farmers and 100% of handicraft producers said skills training from the Skills Centre is important to their incomes.
- **Strong uptake of climate-resilience practices among pepper farmers, but limited among handicraft producers** - 68% of pepper farmers are taking resilience actions, with 62% linked to VSP support. Only 33% of handicraft producers are taking resilience actions, and none due to VSP support.
- **Income outcomes are mixed across groups**
 - Pepper farmers: 42% reported higher incomes, though 41% have no income yet as they are new farmers.
 - Handicraft producers: Only 17% reported higher incomes, while 83% saw lower incomes, largely due to limited coaching and market access issues.
- **Diversification of income is widespread, though driven by different factors**
 - 100% of pepper farmers have diversified incomes (not due to VSP support).
 - 50% of handicraft producers have diversified incomes, and most of these (2 of 3) did so with VSP support.
- **Association membership and market engagement differ significantly between groups** - Pepper farmers: 37% are association members. Handicraft producers: Only 1 of 6 is in an association and most are not engaged in networks, contributing to weaker market outcomes in the handicraft sector.

**From a sample of 25 Malekula based clients including 19 pepper farmers and 6 creative artisans*

LESSONS LEARNED AND ACTIONS

LESSON 1:

Need more coordination and communication effort between partners to support smooth implementation of activities. For example, the Hokai Business centre would have been completed earlier if there was a clear understanding of scope and scale of the project as well as roles and responsibilities between the different partners.

NEXT STEPS:

- Hold detailed consultation meetings and regular check in meetings with all partners involved in a particular activity to enable good implementation of planned activities
- Share an implementation calendar of planned activities with all partners to enable them to better organise themselves to support

LESSON 2:

The internal challenges within the Malampa Handicraft Centre have meant that the Malampa Skills Centre has focused on resolving these issues and supporting stronger Handicraft Centre operations and has therefore not focused on providing ongoing skills support to the producers.

NEXT STEPS:

- Continue to support Malampa Handicraft Centre to ensure good financial and operational processes are in place to enable clear market access for producers.
- Re focus support to Malampa craft producers with in-demand skills such as financial literacy, climate resilience as identified in client monitoring surveys and storians.
- Re focus support to strengthen coordination of activities through associations (based on the 2025 Client Monitoring results- see Slide 14)

LESSON 3:

Need more financial commitment from all partners to enable implementation of planned activities

NEXT STEPS:

- Hold regular and advance meetings with partners and encourage them to pledge more financial commitments to joint activities that meet different organisational goals and objectives

PARTICIPATION IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING*

SECTOR	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Disability Inclusion	18	21	39	8 (4 men, 4 women)
Better Balance	24	5	29	0
Leadership and Governance	8	16	24	0
Skills for Agribusiness	33	52	85	0
Skills for Tourism	20	8	28	0
TOTAL	103	102	205	8 (4 men, 4 women)

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