



PENAMA SKILLS CENTRE

Quarterly Report
Q1, 2025



Image 1: Participants during the backyard gardening workshop in Lovunmangwe community on Ambae.



DISABILITY INCLUSION

Priority Area: Supporting the participation of people with disabilities in skills activities

Achievement/Outcome:

- A two-day refresher workshop was organised for Penama Skills Centre staff on disability inclusion to build understanding and awareness of practical ways to support the participation of people with disabilities in skills activities. In addition to staff, key partners from the Departments of Industry, Agriculture, Livestock, and the Ministries of Education and Training, and Justice and Community Services also participated on the second day. A total of 13 staff and partners attended, including 3 women and 10 men.
- The refresher covered disability policies and legislation, disability categories, barriers to inclusion, appropriate approach and language and ideas for improved collaboration between partners to progress inclusion in the future. The Penama Provincial Disability Desk officer co-facilitated the session on policies and legislation and led the discussion on the National Disability Inclusive Policy.

Image 2 : Disability refresher discussions between Penama Skills Centre Staff and Partners.

- After the refresher, profiling meetings were held with two of the three active Skills Centre clients with disabilities in Penama. These clients were identified and supported to set up specific entrepreneurial initiatives in 2024 including Danstan Boe who was supported to set up a nursery shed, Lanson Toa who is a baker and Nelson Garae Bue who was supported to establish a small piggery.
- Additional training and coaching needs have now been identified for two of the three clients. Unfortunately, Nelson Garae Bue was not available, so it was agreed that the Penama Service Delivery Officer will conduct this profiling as soon as possible to ensure support for this client continues.

SKILLS FOR AGRIBUSINESS

Priority area: Farm to School - Nursery establishment.

Achievement/Outcome:

- A nursery and backyard gardening workshop was successfully conducted this month in the Lovunmangwe community on Ambae. The activity was facilitated by Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) officers and Seed Bank interns, in collaboration with the Penama Skills Centre and the Penama Provincial Disability Desk officer.
- A total of 18 participants - 11 women 7 men - were engaged in the workshop. The primary objective of the workshop was to equip participants with practical knowledge and hands-on skills in nursery management to enhance local vegetable production. Topics covered during the training included germination testing, seed sowing techniques, breaking seed dormancy, backyard garden setup, and seedling transplanting.
- At the conclusion of the workshop, a formal launching and handing-over ceremony of the nursery took place. The nursery was officially handed over to Danstan Boe, a local farmer with disabilities.
- Danstan will now be responsible for the nursery, ensuring continued access to quality seedlings for local vegetable farmers while also generating income for Danstan and his family.
- The event marked a milestone in promoting sustainable agriculture and enhancing food security within the community as well as disability inclusion in the agriculture sector. Ongoing monitoring support by DARD and the Penama Skills Centre will be provided to ensure the sustainability of the nursery and ensuring its long-term impact on vegetable production in the area.



Image 3: Backyard workshop participants pose during a workshop practical session

WHAT ARE THE PRIORITIES FOR QUARTER 2?

Skills for Agribusiness: Farm to School (F2S)

- Finalisation of F2S Guidebook and consultations with key stakeholders
- Ambaebulu F2S partner meeting / health-check
- Review and revise monitoring tools and approach for Ambaebulu F2S
- Support for expansion of the F2S model to new schools in Penama
- Refresher workshop for school chefs/ cooks

Skills for Tourism: Product Readiness

- Conduct good governance and bookkeeping training for West Ambae tourism operators with ORCBDS

Skills for Infrastructure: Small Scale Replicable Models

- Conduct technical assessments for Ambanga /Vandue Gravity water system upgrades – ready to conduct community basic plumbing workshops and upgrade of these two-water systems.

Skills for Infrastructure: Business Incubation

- Finalise graduation date for Melsisi plumbing.
- Support registration of new plumbing companies from Melsisi with the Vanuatu Financial Services Commission.

Training Provider Support:

- Support PSET awareness in secondary schools and communities, to be led by PTC and Training Providers.

Better Balance:

- Support DWA Women's Economic Empowerment Activities – value addition- support by National teams – Better balance officer

PARTICIPATION IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING*

SECTOR	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Skills for Agribusiness	11	7	18	1 man

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