



# SANMA SKILLS CENTRE

Quarterly Report  
Q3 2025 (July-October)

*Image 1: Secretary General of Sanma Provincial Government and Manager Sanma Skills Centre, ready to apply first coat of paint to the Southeast Area Council Headquarter building.*

# SKILLS FOR AGRIBUSINESS

**Priority area:** Pepper Promotion on Malo during Sanma Provincial Day

## **Key achievements/outcomes:**

- In response to limited local market engagement, Sanma Skills Centre supported members of the Abosake and Naviova Pepper Associations on Malo to showcase their products during the Sanma Provincial Day celebrations in September.
- The activity aimed to strengthen consumer awareness, encourage healthy eating, support local farmers, and promote Sanma Province as a leading producer of quality pepper in Vanuatu. It also helped increase the visibility and marketability of Sanma pepper by highlighting its nutritional benefits and value as a unique local product.
- The event created a valuable opportunity for three female members of Sanma Agri-Food Trade Association (SAFTA) to demonstrate their culinary skills and generate income. By preparing dishes featuring Sanma pepper, SAFTA members showed how local ingredients can be transformed into high-quality, value-added products.
- Their participation enhanced the celebration and gave the public the chance to taste and purchase pepper-based dishes, effectively connecting local production with consumer experience.
- As a result of the activity, the association secured new potential local markets in Sanma and Luganville as well as a new market opportunity in Port Vila for 190 – 200 kilos of black pepper in bulk. Total sales from this promotion were valued at approximately 40,000 Vatu including the sale of different local foods prepared using pepper products.



*Image 2: Booth and display of pepper products and recipes.*



Image 3-10: Value-added pepper products on display during Sanma Provincial Day celebrations on Malo.

# SKILLS FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

**Priority area:** Completion of Certificate II Building and Construction, and completion of Southeast Area Council office building

## **Key achievements/outcomes:**

- In collaboration with Sanma Provincial Government, Vanuatu Institute of Technology and Pacific Australia Skills, Sanma Skills Centre supported the successful construction of the Southeast Area Council building in South East Santo.
- A Certificate II in Building and Construction was delivered by Vanuatu Institute of Technology as part of the project to upskill 25 trainees in construction (2 women and 23 men, including one man with disabilities) through a combination of theory and on-site practical experience. Additionally, local construction company Nok Construction, which was founded by trainees from a previous skill training, was contracted to work alongside the trainees to support the project.
- The building was officially launched in November 2025 and trainees received a certificate of participation, while a formal graduation for trainees is planned in early 2026.
- This achievement is the result of a strong partnership with the Sanma Provincial Government and contributes to the Government's decentralisation agenda while also strengthening skills at the community level. This is the fourth Area Council building to be successfully completed in Sanma through this partnership. While Sanma Skills Centre arranged logistics and training delivery, the Provincial government contributed the materials and funding for the launch.
- The building will serve multiple purposes including being the service hub of government and administration services, while also being an evacuation centre in times of cyclones and disasters. As a result of the training, the Sanma Provincial Government has now arranged for an additional solar skills workshop to be delivered for the trainees by a private sector solar power business who will then work with the trainees to install solar systems in all Sanma government area council buildings.



*Image 11: Participants standing with their certificates of participation and their tool kits after the official opening of the Southeast Area Council building.*



*Image 12-19: Photos of the South East Area Council building launching event, hosted and resourced directly by the Sanma Provincial Government.*

# SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

**Priority area:** Sanma Creative Hub products a success at 'Vanuatu Made'

## **Key achievements/outcomes:**

- In September, Sanma Creative Industries Community Company (SCICC) Hub Manager, Industry Coach and 3 female producers, including a producer with a disability, attended the Vanuatu Made event in Port Vila.
- This annual event was initiated in 2019 by the Department of Industry to support, display and promote locally made products under the Vanuatu Made brand.
- All the participants were able to proudly display their products throughout the event. Sanma Skills Centre supported through providing transport, accommodation and logistics support, in addition to enabling a carer to travel with Bronia, a client who is deaf.
- When buyers approached the booths with questions, the producers confidently explained the use, origin, and uniqueness of each item. It was especially heartwarming to see Bronia fully engaging in the event — arranging their displays, smiling warmly at visitors, and sharing in the excitement of the sales.
- A major highlight of the opening day was the Vanuatu Made Fashion Show. This segment was particularly special as our SCICC clients proudly showcased their unique Vanuatu Made creation — a stunning blend of garment, textile, and handicraft design.
- As a result of the activity SCICC made 603,950 VUV in sales. The Manager reported that this was much higher than in previous years.



*Image 20: A customer visiting the SCICC booth during the Vanuatu Made Show.*



*Image 21: SCICC members at their booth displaying their products.*



Image 22 – 28 Images from Vanuatu Made - including the SCICC booth and fashion show designs.

# SKILLS FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

**Priority area: First Nations Cultural Exchange to Darwin and Gapuwiyak, Australia**

## **Key achievements/outcomes:**

- From 2–24 August, five female craft producers from the Sanma Creative Hub participated in a cross-cultural exchange initiative in Darwin and Gapuwiyak, Northern Territory, Australia.
- The exchange brought together Australian and ni-Vanuatu pandanus weavers with the aim of sharing cultural knowledge and strengthening relationships between Indigenous communities. Key objectives included building mutual understanding, trust, and new friendships; encouraging reflection on one's own creative and cultural practices and celebrating shared living experiences
- The experience built confidence among Santo-based participants to pursue future collaborative opportunities and to share creative projects that support innovation within the creative industries. Participants learned new techniques in pandanus processing and weaving, which are now being integrated into their traditional practices.
- The exchange also highlighted opportunities to develop new woven forms and storytelling art pieces that reflect ni-Vanuatu culture, with potential to increase the value of products within the Vanuatu Creative Industries.



*Image 29: Group photo.*



*Image 30: Participants sharing experiences with new products from both Vanuatu and Gapuwiyak.*

# CLIENT MONITORING RESULTS

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

Key achievements/outcomes:

- 1. Clients are actively building climate-resilient businesses.** Across Sanma, **over 80% of monitored clients**—both pepper farmers and handicraft producers—are adopting practical climate-resilience measures, with **Sanma Skills Centre support directly influencing nearly half** of these changes.
- 2. Women producers are experiencing strong income growth.** Handicraft and textile groups—comprising **100% women, including producers with disabilities**—reported **75–100% higher incomes**, with **Sanma Skills Centre** skills training and market access support strongly contributing to these gains.
- 3. Pepper farmers show mixed but improving income trends.** While **38% of pepper farmers increased their income**, income volatility persists due to market uncertainty, highlighting the need for strengthened and consistent market pathways.
- 4. Skills and market access support are driving income improvements.** A large majority of clients—**88% of pepper farmers** and **92–95% of handicraft producers**—reported that **Sanma Skills Centre** skills training and market access support were *important or very important* to their income gains.
- 5. Clients are diversifying their livelihoods, with notable shifts among women.** Most clients have expanded into new income streams—**88% of pepper farmers** and **83% of women producers**—with **Sanma Skills Centre** contributing to **one-third of all diversification**, especially among hatmakers who added new product lines learned through **Sanma Skills Centre** supported skills activities.

*\*From a sample of 32 Sanma-based clients [8 pepper farmers, 24 creative artisans]*

# INCLUSION

**Priority area:** Disability Inclusion Awareness in Big Bay, Northwest and West Santo, facilitated by the MOJYCS Disability Desk Officer

## Key achievements/outcomes:

- In August 2025, Sanma Skills Centre supported Sanma Disability Desk officer by providing operational budget for transport and per-diems to enable her to conduct a disability awareness trip during a HELPR-1 mission trip to Big Bay, Northwest and West Santo.
- The main purpose of the activity was to advocate for the rights of people with disabilities in remote parts of Sanma Province.
- This educational awareness includes the convention on the rights of persons with disability, National Disability Inclusive development policies, mainstreaming the rights of persons with disabilities, leadership and representation, accessibility and rights of women and girls with disabilities.
- As a result of the trip, 18 people with disabilities were registered; 4 were referred to eye and ear specialists; and 2 referred to police due to alleged neglect and abuse.



*Image 31: Daisy Atuary, Sanma Disability Officer registering a person with disability at Wunpuko Village, Santo.*



Image 32 - 38 : Disability Inclusion Awareness in Big Bay, Northwest and West Santo, facilitated by the MOJYCS Disability Desk Officer.

# LESSON LEARNED AND ACTIONS

## LESSON 1:

Activity planning towards end of the year/ investment must carefully prioritise sector major priorities with provincial partners and national teams to avoid over planning and overspending the budget allocation for the Skills Centres

### NEXT STEPS:

- Ensure more careful planning, including planning to budget envelopes towards end of the year or phase.

## LESSON 2:

Conflicting partner expectations or political influence can impact on project implementation timelines. For example, the Southeast Area Council Building launching dates needed to be brought forward at the request of senior partners resulting in Sanma Skills Centre not being able to contribute to the celebrations and the formal certificates for trainees not being ready with the VQA.

### NEXT STEPS:

- Develop a clear partner agreement for all future joint projects which states the importance of each partners understanding each others individual processes and budget allocations to avoid issues.

## LESSON 3:

Through the First Nations Cultural Exchange program we recognise how cultural tourism supports cultural preservation, storytelling and traditional crafts by elevating the value of goods and driving sales beyond 'handicraft'.

### NEXT STEPS:

- Review the current blockers we face in accessing and maximising new markets, and discuss more on how can we overcome these.
- Build awareness of the uniqueness of Vanuatu products within the global marketplace.
- Collaborate with the Department of Industry to foster opportunities for stronger entrepreneurship through the Vanuatu Made platform.

# PARTICIPATION IN SKILLS DEVELOPMENT TRAINING\*

SECTOR	WOMEN	MEN	TOTAL	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
Skills for Infrastructure	2	23	25	1 man
Disability Inclusion	20	23	43	1 woman
Skills for Agribusiness	2	3	5	0
Skills for Creative Industries	6	0	6	1 woman
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>3, 2 women and 1 man</b>

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